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PENCOED 'ROGUE TRADER' IS JAILED

A 'rogue trader' who ran a business of home improvements, has been jailed for 10 months at Cardiff Crown Court.

Michael O'Brien (58) of Bryn Rhedyn, Pencoed, Bridgend, had admitted nine charges involving engaging in unfair commercial practices and failing to inform customers of cancellation rights.

He had been found guilty at an earlier trial of fraudulently disposing of property.

Judge Stephen Hopkins said that in

CROWN COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

2011, O'Brien had been adjudged bankrupt with debts of £50,000.

He said that in common parlance, he was a "rogue trader".

Prosecutor Joanna James said that O'Brien ran a business called Cosy Homes involving building conservatories and home improvements.

Bridgend County Borough Council received a complaint from a woman in the area concerning a failure by O'Brien to complete building a conservatory

for her. She had paid O'Brien £6,700, but little work was done, because he said he wanted the weather to improve.

Three months later, he asked for more money and a small amount of groundwork was carried out. He continued to give excuses for failing to finish the work.

O'Brien agreed to build a conservatory for the woman for £7,500, and he was paid a deposit of £1,900. He was paid a further £2,000, but nothing was heard from him

for several weeks. He explained that some of his machinery had broken down, and gave further excuses for not doing work, and for seven months he sent text messages containing more excuses.

She requested her money back, but it was not returned.

Local authorities, said Miss James, learned that O'Brien had been declared bankrupt. He told them he had ceased trading, but received a further complaint about him not fitting a door.

O'Brien said he had always intended to honour his promises but had been let down by a fellow trader.

He admitted that some of the money he received paid for personal bills.

He later agreed to fit windows and took £140 deposit, and that was the last the customer saw of him.

His barrister, Andrew Davies, said the defendant's daughter was repaying some money to some creditors.

"He was out of his depth as a businessman, and could not keep his head above water. His business and personal life were on a downward spiral."

He said he had repaid about £1,700 to customers.

"Sadly, for many years, he was a hard-working businessman," added Mr Davies.

No order was made for costs estimated at £15,000.

PENCOED'S YEAR OF SPORTING SUCCESS



As another school year comes to an end at Pencoed School, read their review of the year on pages 9 and 40.

Fire stations review prompts call for 'more information'

A REGIONAL AM is to write to the South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority for more information about plans to close two fire stations in the borough.

A review of services provided by the authority is thought likely to recommend closing Porthcawl and Kenfig Hill stations and replacing them with a new station to be built in Cornelly.

The two stations are currently manned by part time (retained) firefighters.

Suzy Davies, Welsh Conservative regional AM for South Wales West, said that Porthcawl was the third largest town in Bridgend county borough.

"The population of Porthcawl effectively doubles in the summer with visitors to what is a major resort," she said. "Apart from people staying in the many hotels and guest houses, there is also the caravan park at Trecco Bay which is one of the biggest in Europe."

"I have concerns about taking firefighters further away from Porthcawl, because caravans can go up like a Roman candle when there's a fire."

"If you also factor in the high percentage of flats within the town - purpose built ones which can be four of five storeys high, and converted houses - these are also increased risks."

"Porthcawl is also due to get thousands of new homes under the regeneration strategy which will see the population rising. So, I will be urging the authority to bear in mind all these factors when they are making their plans."

Mrs Davies added that there would be similar concerns about taking the station away from Kenfig Hill, which has also seen the building of hundreds of new homes in recent years.

She is to ask the fire service about its rules regarding travelling times to stations by retained firefighters. "I understand that they need to live within just a few minutes drive of fire stations if they wish to become part time crew."

"If the stations are removed from both Porthcawl and Kenfig Hill, we could be left with a situation where neither group of expensively trained and experienced fire fighters will qualify, as they will all live too far away from a new station. What will happen then?" she asked.

Seven arrests made

POLICE in Porthcawl and Maesteg who recently targeted outstanding suspects, said that at the end of the operation, seven people had been brought into custody in connection with offences including assault, theft and harassment. They were later released on police bail.

The day-long operation was co-ordinated by acting police sergeant Paul Raikes and involved officers from Maesteg, Aberkenfig and Porthcawl neighbourhood policing teams.

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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Mynydd Cynffig Junior School LEAVERS Award Winners, 2013 – Congratulations to all year-6 pupils who were presented with awards at the Schools Leavers' Presentation.

Each pupil received their own Welsh Slate trophy, a special Pen Set and a DVD of the year-5 and 6 concert *Joseph*, as a mark of thanks for their contribution to the success of Mynydd Cynffig Junior School over the past four years.

Headmaster, Mr Davies and his staff, wished year-6 pupils every success when they enter Cynffig Comprehensive School in September.

Perpetual Trophy Winners – Drama, boy: Jay Buckley; drama, girl: Menna Smart; mathematician, Kieran Thomas; scientist, Connor John; musician, Charlotte Roberts; story writer, Jacob Hesketh; ICT, Scott Roberts; care and consideration, Lowri Thomas; Welsh, Amy Ruck; artist, Lli To Chung; sports, boy: Ben Evans; and sports, girl: Holly Lewis.

The following were presented with certificates having been nominated by their class teacher as most improved pupils: Owain Pugh and Brooke Rees Simcock, class 1; Ellis

Peart and Isabelle Anderson, class 2; Dylan Phillips and Caitlin Jones, class 3; Matthew Briggs and Sarah Berry, class 4; Aaron Twose and Zuzanna Kubala, class 5; Harry Sleath and Emmi Joy, class 6; and Cai Downs and Isabel Ellwood, class 7.

BASKETBALL

Mynydd Cynffig Junior School are national champions. They claimed the 2013 Bridgend schools national league title last week at Pencoed College, following wins over Maes Yr Haul Primary, Pencoed Primary and a draw against Tynrhyl Primary. The squad consisted of Ben Evans, Liam Evans, Jack Evans, Todd Hind, Thomas Rees, Menna Smart, Alex Underhill, Jack Davies, Shauna Lewis, Emily Walters and Olivia Davies. Sadly, Holly Lewis was unable to take part due to illness.

Well done to everyone, with a special mention for Mr Price, for his outstanding contribution towards the success of the basketball team this season.

Kenfig Hill & Pyle community week art competition had a Mardi Gras or Festival theme this year. A number of pupils were chosen as winners:

1st prize – Theo Aubin and Lexi Thompson from class 4



COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by Richard Sims

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who received £15 WH Smith vouchers.

2nd prize – Holly Lewis, class 7 and Will Jones, class 1 who received £10 WH Smith vouchers.

3rd prize – Joshua Scott, class 6 and Amber Tidmarsh, class 1 who received £5 WH Smith vouchers.

Summer football tournament – PCSO Nerys Lloyd visited the school last week to present the Pyle Neighbourhood Policing Team summer football tournament winners' trophy to the school.

Along with four other members of the Pyle NPT, Nerys presented certificates to the successful squad made up of Conor Jenkins, Emily Walters, Molly Leyland, Thomas Llewellyn, Jack Davies, Callum Hill, Ewan Davis, Joshua Scott, Mark Underhill, Joseph Hardwicke, Ewan Orchard, Alex Underhill and Davis Thomas.

Medals were also awarded to Conor Jenkins, Molly Leyland and Jack Davies, having been identified by the NPT for showing excellent teamwork, behaving in a sportsmanlike manner, and for the support and encouragement offered to their teammates.

Llys Ton
RESIDENTS of Llys Ton welcome everyone to a concert, featuring the Kenfig Hill and District Male Voice Choir, on Monday July 29 in the Llys Ton residential home, Waun Bant Road, Kenfig Hill at 7pm. For details ring 01656 745666.

Kenfig Hill Wellbeing Centre

INCLUDED in activities being held by the Mental Health Matters at the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill from 1pm to 5pm on July 31 are arts and crafts from 2pm to 4pm, a quiz from 3pm to 4pm and the reading group from 4pm to 5pm.

It will be a great social afternoon and everyone is welcome to join in the activities.

Leisure time
UNTIL September 1, Halo Leisure have a huge range of activities for children including swimming, snorkelling, arts and crafts, basket-

ball, circus skills, gymnastics and rugby.

Halo are also offering a free crash course of swimming lessons to children not currently on the learn to swim programme, as well as special offers on one-to-one swimming lessons.

Free play 4 life sessions will be available until August 23 through-out the county borough, including Halo centres at Bridgend, Ogmere, Garw and Maesteg. These free sport, play and arts and craft activities are for children aged from 8 to 12 years old.

Shout

KENFIG Hill Shout Forum for the over 50s will be holding their next meeting at Theo's charity shop, Bridge Street, Kenfig Hill on July 30 between 2pm and 4pm.

The speaker on this occasion will be from Age Cymru. If you would like to help improve local services for older people in the community, you will be made welcome.

For further information about the activities of Kenfig Hill Shout, ring Stan Rumble on 01656 741203.

Support Centre

IT seems many people still do not know that the Talbot Community Centre, 9 Prince Road, Kenfig Hill, (previously a Miners' Hall and then known as the Talbot Institute) is owned by the community and run by the community.

It is completely independent of any organisation such as the council, a political party, church or private individual.

Many activities that would be of interest to residents are held there, as well as trips to places of interest, visits to the theatre, cabaret nights, diners' club twice a week (freshly prepared by the resident cook) for anyone over the age of 30 and bingo on a Friday afternoon.

It is an ideal venue, with a stage, sound system and lighting, for children's or adult parties, social occasions and wedding receptions (hot/cold buffets or a sit down meal can be offered if required).

It is also often used for business seminars, company meetings and a practice hall for dance groups.

To keep your Grade 2 listed building open as a local amenity, it needs your full support. For further information of activities or prices, contact Cheryl Butcher on 01656 749754 or if the office is closed ring 07802 439679.

P & K golf
WELL done to the Pyle & Kenfig ladies team, represented by Sian Thomas (captain), Fauve Birch, Cheryl Western, Alison Hurry, Hannah Johnson and Elizabeth (reserve), on their achievements in the Ladies Welsh Team Championships held in Cardigan.

The team showed great form on the Friday morning and came out on top with a 3 – 2 win against Pennard. P & K were in the final 16, where they played Haverfordwest, and also won 3 – 2.

However, in the quarter finals against Aberdovey, they lost by the same margin of 3 – 2.

Good luck to Hannah Johnson, who will be in Builth Wells on August 13 to compete in the GUV Medal and LGU silver and bronze challenge bowls medal competition.

Good luck also to Heather Jenkins and Mary Morgan, who will play in the Area Coronation foursomes final at the Glamorganshire Club on July 29 and Del Raikes and Annette Rhys who are playing in the regional final for the Australian Spoons.

Ffion Tynan (junior girls) is currently the European under-10s champion.

Ffion also entered the world under-10s golf championships in Jakarta and came third. This month, Ffion will play in the World Junior Masters in Las Vegas and the Callaway World Junior Championships in San Diego.

Teachers look for classroom tips

CREATIVE ways for children to be taught about the environment and improving the quality of life for future generations have been debated by teachers at a special conference in Bridgend.

Teachers from 23 schools across the county borough attended the conference held recently at Bryntirion

Comprehensive School to keep up to date with the latest practical advice for teaching pupils about 'education for sustainable development and global citizenship', a relatively new concept that is now a compulsory part of education in schools. Organised by Bridgend County Borough Council's sustainable development officer Gemma McLean, the event explored resources available for schools.

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Porthcawl pupils get set to make music!

TWO pupils from St John's School in Porthcawl have been recognised for their budding talent in the music world.

Joshua Olsen (11) from Bridgend, has been selected to star in the Welsh National Opera's performance of *Tosca*. The year-6 pupil has been chosen as one of the choir boys as the opera tours the UK from September to November.

This is the second time that Joshua has performed with the Welsh National Opera, having also starred in the Opera's tour of *The Cunning Little Vixen* earlier this year.

Bibiana Viazzani (11) has become one of the youngest people to be offered a place to study voice at the Royal College of Music in London.

Bibiana, who is in year-6 at St John's Porthcawl, will now travel to London every Saturday where she will continue to develop her talent, take part in the college's performances and will also learn to play the saxophone.

Mrs Clint, headmistress of St John's Porthcawl, said: "This is a great achievement for both Bibiana and Joshua. They are very gifted individuals and we are glad that their talent is being recognised by such prestigious organisations. We have no doubt that they will both be a great success in the musical arts in the future."

Bibiana has been attending singing lessons since the age of seven with Charlotte Church's former vocal coach, Louise Ryan. Since then, she has gone on to win a series of competitions in Wales, including The South Glamorgan Festival for Young Musicians and the Music in the Vale singing competition.

Paolo Viazzani, father



Joshua Olsen

of Bibiana, said: "Bibiana has always loved singing, which is why we decided to take her to lessons with Louise Ryan. Although we knew Bibiana was talented in Wales, we wanted to have her voice assessed by the tutors at the Royal College of Music. To be accepted at the age of 11 when the starting age limit is 14 is a huge achievement and we are very proud of her."

Joshua became interested in performing at a young age and started attending local singing lessons at the age of eight. He won a scholarship to attend St John's School in Porthcawl two years ago and has been working with the music department to continue to develop his voice and performance abilities.

His mum, Gail Olsen, said: "I am so pleased that Joshua will be touring with the Welsh National Opera once again. It is an extremely proud moment for any parent when they see their child succeeding in something they enjoy doing."



Bibiana Viazzani

ing with the Welsh National Opera once again. It is an extremely proud moment for any parent when they see their child succeeding in something they enjoy doing. "Joshua has always loved to sing and being a performer is certainly his ambition for life. It's great that he's achieving these opportunities at such a young age which will no doubt help him in the future."

AIRPORT ROAD MEASURES

THE Vale of Glamorgan Council placed a notice in The GEM that it has been deemed necessary to close the westerly access road to Cardiff Airport, in order to reduce the danger of injury or damage due to terrorism.

This protective action will be taken at 6.01pm on July 30 (let's hope the terrorists have synchronised their watches with the council), and may remain in effect for 18 months.

Fortunately, it seems, the terrorists are not interested in attacking the easterly access road from Port Road, so that will remain open. Thank goodness for that!

Branwen Sloper,

Cowbridge.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL AUGUST 1)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
25 Thur	08.56	10.2	21.22	10.4
26 Fri	09.39	9.9	22.02	10.1
27 Sat	10.21	9.6	22.48	9.6
28 Sun	11.06	9.2	23.27	9.1
29 Mon	11.47	8.6		
30 Tues	00.14	8.5	12.36	8.0
31 Wed	01.08	8.0	13.38	7.7
01 Thur	02.14	7.6	14.55	7.5

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

Alzheimer's Society supported by craft and country fayre

A CRAFT and country fayre held at Dexters Farm, Pencoed, to support the Alzheimer's Society, raised £500 for the charity.

A large number of locals turned out to enjoy a variety of attractions at the two-day event, including craft stalls, local produce and refreshments, live music and a display of vintage agricultural equipment. Entry to the event was free, with money raised through raffle pledges and donations.

Linda, one of the owners of Dexters Farm, said: "We've had to deal with Alzheimer's in our family, so we are aware of the important work Alzheimer's Society do. We were very pleased to be able to support them in their fundraising."

Aimee Hopkins, Alzheimer's Society Community Fundraiser in Wales, commented: "We are very grateful to

the staff at Dexters Farm for all their efforts in organising this fayre, which was a wonderful weekend. As a charity, we rely on the generosity of individuals and organisations, like Dexters, to help us continue our vital work.

"People's generosity and fundraising help us support people to live well today and fight for a world without dementia tomorrow."

Alzheimer's Society in Wales has a range of services which support people with dementia and their carers in the local area. These include the Dementia Café and Singing for the Brain services in Bridgend for people with dementia and carers to meet in a friendly atmosphere.

Contact the local office on 01656 753 754, or email bridgend-dis-trict@alzheimers.org.uk.

CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Shoplifter burgled home of a friend

WHILE on bail for an offence of shoplifting, a heroin addict burgled the home of a friend.

Cardiff Crown Court heard that Alicia Nevard (26) had made off with a Playstation and a state-of-the-art laptop computer.

Nevard, of Chestnut Road, Bryntirion,

Bridgend, was jailed for a total of 11 months, suspended for two years, made subject to a two-year supervision order, and was ordered to take part in a drug rehabilitation scheme for nine months.

She admitted charges of burglary and shoplifting.

Prosecutor Gareth James said she stole the

electronic equipment from the home of a friend, Paul Dale.

The police later recovered the items.

He said that Nevard claimed she had been lent the laptop.

On April 21, said Mr James, she went to the Tesco supermarket, Bridgend, and took electrical items worth £24.

When arrested, she

said: "Yes, I admit nicking it. I've got the money, can I pay for it?"

She was said to have convictions for 39 offences, involving drugs and dishonesty. She had also previously received two years in a young offender institution for robbery and three months for battery.

Her counsel, Byron Broadstock, said: "At the time, she was in the throes of a drug addiction, which began when she was a teenager. Her previous convictions are a testimony to that addiction. Much of her offending was to acquire drugs."

He said that while in custody, she had become drugs-free.

The burglary, he said, was an impulsive offence.

Judge Philip Richards told her: "You have been back in jail again, and it's not a good place to be."

"You have to decide what you want to do with your life – be a junkie, or address your drug addiction."

"You have had a number of chances of help, and you are not getting any younger. It's up to you to make a change in your life."

She was also ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £100.

Man smashed fist through TV screen

AFTER drinking and taking anti-depressants, a man smashed his fist through the screen of a television belonging to his ex-partner, Cardiff Crown Court has been told.

Nathan Parker (22) had become verbally abusive and told the woman: "I wish you were dead, you are stupid."

Parker, formerly of Coleridge Avenue, Penarth, is now living in Leckwith, Cardiff, and was jailed for a total of six months. He admitted a charge of criminal damage, theft, and failing to surrender when on bail. He was also in breach of a suspended sentence for handling stolen goods.

Judge Philip Richards told him: "You are causing people to become upset."

He said the woman involved had done nothing to him, and had shown him affection.

Prosecutor Nicholas Gedge said

that following a party in Sully, Parker stole headphones and a Playstation worth £300. Parker voluntarily went to the police and admitted the thefts.

In June, he said, he and his ex-partner met at her home, and he began drinking and taking anti-depressants. He then became abusive and argumentative, and punched a 32-inch flat screen television worth £300, wrecking it.

Parker's solicitor, Adam Sharpe, said: "He frankly acknowledges what the form of sentence will be. He has been in a relationship for 18 months, and by and large, the couple live together."

He said his behaviour towards his ex-partner was wholly stupid, and he was utterly ashamed.

He added: "He is not predisposed to domestic violence, and it was an isolated incident. His problem has been alcohol. Custody will have a profound effect on him, because he is about to become a father."

'Improve hospital buses from Bridgend' – says a Tory AM

SHADOW Welsh Transport Minister Byron Davies AM is to press transport chiefs to lay on buses from the Bridgend area to both Neath Port Talbot and Morriston hospitals.

He said he was delighted to hear that extra buses were being provided from both Neath and Port Talbot to Morriston Hospital, but he said there was also a need for similar bus services to now be provided from towns like Maesteg, Porthcawl and Bridgend to both Morriston Hospital and to Baglan.

"There has been a transfer of functions from Princess of Wales Hospital to both of these other hospitals," he said. "People requiring knee or hip operations are now often treated at Neath Port Talbot while cardiac cases are routinely transferred to Morriston."

"The public transport system has yet to catch up with these changes. "I was contacted last winter by residents in Porthcawl after a direct evening bus from Porthcawl to Port Talbot was scrapped. As a result, people wishing to visit patients in Baglan in the evenings, and there is no afternoon visiting, have to get a bus into Bridgend, a bus to Port Talbot and a third bus from the town centre to the hospital. They need to get another three buses to get home."

"This is a marathon which is quite beyond the many elderly people who have to make this journey and who do not have a car."

Mr Davies added that people travelling from outlying parts of Bridgend county borough like Nantymoel and Pontycymer would also need to catch three buses each way.

He is also concerned that changes to hospital services now being considered could result in more treatments being carried out at Morriston.

"Even if the Princess of Wales Hospital is designated a regional centre, health chiefs have said that some services may have to transfer to other hospitals which could include Llantrisant or Morriston."

"We need to ensure that bus services are configured to meet the increased demand which will take place when these changes are made."

Mr Davies will be in touch with health chiefs to urge them to begin

talks with Bridgend Rural Borough Council to see if services can be laid on at suitable times to cater for hospital visiting.

He concluded: "Concerns about public transport links to our hospitals emerged from the recent consultations on health services. We need more joined-up thinking from those people charged with organising our public services whether they be health or transport."

Down Memory Lane at carnival

THIS year's Garw Valley Carnival takes place on Saturday, August 17, with the procession and accompanying events programme based around the theme 'A Walk Down Memory Lane'.

The carnival offers a free family day out, with a wide variety of stalls and live entertainment to appeal to all ages. The main procession route will begin in Pontycymer at mid-day, travelling through

Blaengarw and arriving at the Rural Fair, held adjacent to Calon Lan Parc.

This year's confirmed entertainment includes a recreation of popular shops from the Garw Valley that have existed over the years, a hidden 'Moonshine Shack', which will feature beer brewed by community members at 'Artisan Brewery' in Cardiff, a soft play area, fair rides, a vintage car display, face painting etc.

There will also be perform-

ances by local DJs, The Siren Sisters, Ransack Dance and National Theatre Wales.

The evening party includes a variety of live music, which features a headline set by popular covers band The Monophonics and a fireworks display.

The Garw Carnival was resurrected in 2007, following a 21-year absence.

For further information, visit www.garwcarnival.com or search 'Garw Valley Carnival 2013' on Facebook.

It's easy as ABC for the Kenfig Hill Air Cadets!



The Kenfig Hill cadets with 'Rescue Anne'.

THE recent Kenfig Hill and Pyle Festival fun day saw cadets and staff from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron ATC giving a demonstration of CPR using 'Rescue Anne', a training mannequin.

There was an opportunity for the public to 'have a go' and one person commented that it was 'not as easy as it seemed' to get the chest to rise.

Kenfig Hill and Pyle ward county borough councillor Luke Ellis praised the Kenfig Hill Squadron saying: "Yet again the 2117 Cadets have proven what a truly valuable asset they are to the community."

"Not only do they continue to serve our community with extraordinary civic pride and immense discipline and respect, but this year they also provided an extremely useful demonstration in resuscitation techniques, which (hopefully) will never be needed, but if required, could save lives."

"I highly commend the work of the officers and dedicated voluntary staff who continue to invest their time in our young people locally, with consistently remarkable results, he said.

Apart from the CPR demonstration, the cadets had a recruitment stall which attracted a lot of attention. They also helped with the setting up, collecting litter and with the bouncy castle.

"I spoke with community councillor Andrea Jones, who commented on how the cadets were well turned out and their help with the bouncy castle was invaluable. They wouldn't have been able to manage without them."

Flt Lt Woodward, Adjutant 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron was in overall charge of staff and cadets who attended on the day.

CADETS IN 75th CELEBRATIONS
A SPECIAL service was held last week to mark 75 years of RAF MoD St Athan in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The station opened as RAF St Athan in 1938, as a maintenance base, and was renamed MoD St Athan in 2006.

The staff and cadets of 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron RAF Air Cadets No.3 Welsh Wing ATC, along with staff and cadets from No.1 Welsh Wing ATC, joined with others to take part in the parade representing past, present and future.

ISCWO Nathan Cooper from Kenfig Hill Squadron was selected to be a standard bearer.

There was also a fly-past and a drop by the RAF Falcons Parachute Display Team.

Staff and cadets from Kenfig Hill Squadron had a wonderful and memorable day taking part in what was a milestone in the history of the Royal Air Force at St Athan.

LINDSAY THOMAS
(Secretary, Civilian Committee)

Consultation on tidal lagoon

PORTHCAWL and Bridgend residents are invited to attend a public consultation event at The Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl on Friday, August 2 from 3pm-8pm, when details of a proposed £650 million tidal lagoon will be revealed.

Plans for the Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon were published earlier this year and Tidal Lagoon Swansea Bay Plc has now published its statement of community consultation as required under section 47 (6) of the Planning Act 2008.

Comments on the proposed development must be received by August 5 and will be considered as the planning application is prepared, before its submission in late 2013.

Tidal Lagoon Power Plc proposes to build the lagoon on the seabed south of and connecting to Swansea Docks (between the dredged channels of the Rivers Tawe and Neath) and on other land nearby in the City and County of Swansea and in Neath Port Talbot County Borough. Work could begin as soon as April 2015.

Development Director, Ioan Jenkins is from Pen-y-Fai and he explained: "The project could provide up to 400GWh of reliable, low

carbon electricity each year – enough for around 120,000 homes – making the project a significant contributor to statutory, UK-wide, carbon reduction targets.

"As a multi-million pound investment, it will also create economic opportunities for local people and businesses during construction and operation. It would incorporate a new visitor attraction with educational/sporting facilities and free, public access around a new seawall.

"However, the lagoon may also affect people, communities and the environment through, for example: visual impact; restrictions to navigation in Swansea Bay; ecological, water quality, coastal processes and other environmental impacts; and increased traffic during construction and operation phases."

"It is vital that local communities have opportunities to contribute to the planning process."

Bettws surgeries

Ogmore MP, Huw Irranca-Davies, will be holding street surgeries in Bettws between 1pm-3pm tomorrow (July 26).

This will be followed by a 'drop-in' session at Bettws Life Centre, Bettws Road between 3pm-4pm.

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Neil's ride from Paris to Rome for Sarcoma UK

Report by TIM CHAPMAN

A man from Rhose cycled all the way from Paris to Rome – to raise funds for Sarcoma UK.

Neil John (36), who works as the senior stage technician at St David's Hall, Cardiff, was diagnosed with fibrosarcoma in August 2009.

He underwent a successful operation and this year decided to support other people who are suffering from the disease by making the marathon cycle ride.

At the time of his diagnosis four years ago, Neil was fearful he would not be able to hold his daughter Elinor, who was born in January 2010.

Fortunately, those fears were unfounded and he is looking forward to getting the 'all clear' five years after the operation.

Neil's wife Jo told The GEM: "Neil and the team of cyclists made it to the Colosseum in Rome finishing together."

"They cycled through the full range of weather conditions, including snow, thunderstorms, and hail."

"Neil also encountered some friendly locals who jested he was too fat to go up the mountains!"

"He soon showed them. In total the group cycled just over 1,100 miles in 11 days, a few extra miles than planned



Journey's end for Neil – the Colosseum in Rome.

as they had to do some re-routing due to some road closures."

Jo added: "We'd like to say a big thank you to all of you at the GEM for your continue support of Neil and his crazy rides, and to the readers – we even got a letter from our local MP who must have seen the original story in The GEM."

"The grand total we raised for Sarcoma UK was £1,534.50 which will be boosted up by gift aid."

Sarcomas are rare cancers that develop in the supporting or connective tissues of the body such as muscle, bone, nerves, cartilage, blood vessels or fat.

For more information on the charity Neil is supporting, go to www.sarcoma.org.uk

Swimmers rescued off Llantwit coast

A dramatic rescue of three swimmers – two women and a man – took place off the Llantwit Major coast on Sunday evening, July 21.

The swimmers were struggling in strong currents and were rescued following a rapidly-assembled rescue operation.

They had been part of a group of eight people, and got into difficulties in the water off Tresilian Bay at 6pm.

A member of the eight-strong party raised the alarm, contacting the Swansea Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC).

Swansea MRCC issued a mayday relay broadcast requesting assistance from any vessels in the area.

The Llantwit Major Coastguard Rescue Team (LMCR) was scrambled and headed to the scene, joined by Porthcawl RNLI inshore lifeboat and the RAF search and

rescue helicopter from RMB Chivenor.

A vessel in the area at the time also responded to the call, plucking the trio from the sea and getting them safely on board.

The Porthcawl lifeboat arrived and took the three swimmers ashore. No one required any medical attention.

Steve Jones, rescue co-ordination centre manager at Swansea MRCC, advised: "If you are going for a swim, remember that even though the sea may look calm on the surface, there is the danger of strong currents underneath."

"Always check tide times before you walk along the foreshore and away from beach access points so that you can avoid being cut off by the incoming tide."

"The key thing to remember is that if you see someone in difficulty, you should call 999 immediately and ask for the coastguard."

Six jailbird kittens pining for a home!



Picture by SUE DOBBS.

It was several months ago that The GEM reported six tiny kittens had been found in a vehicle parked at Parc Prison. They were rushed to the Cat Adoption Centre in Bryncethin, Bridgend, and taken good care of.

The GEM can now report that Mum Agatha and her adorable kittens, Christie, Jessica, Marple, Poirat, Kojak and Sherlock, (above) are ready to go to more permanent loving homes. Contact Cats Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre on 01656 724 396, or email: bridgend@cats.org.uk. The centre currently has over 180 cats looking for a home.

Pupils turn junk into funk for Ty Hafan



PUPILS from Maesteg Comprehensive School have transformed unwanted items into an eye-catching window display at Ty Hafan's Maesteg shop.

From dresses made out of crisp packets and Barbie dolls – to record-shaped bowls and a teapot clock – the stunning artwork, created by GCSE and A Level students as part of their coursework, is on display at the shop.

Penny Collins, retail operations manager at Ty Hafan, said: "We are delighted with our amazing display created by

pupils at Maesteg Comprehensive School. It is wonderful to work in partnership with the school, not only to showcase the pupils fantastic work but to also encourage more people to support and visit our shop."

Some of the pupils will be donating their creations to raise funds for the hospice at Sully. Ty Hafan's 23 shops make a vital contribution to the £3.5million needed to run the hospice each year. The charity is looking for people to donate unwanted goods and for volunteers to help at its shops. For more information, visit www.tyhafan.org or call 02920 532 199.

Lions' coffee morning

PORHTCAWL Lions are holding a coffee morning at Trinity Church, John Street, tomorrow (Friday, July 26) from 10.30am and all proceeds will go towards the Bob Cooke games held annually in Swindon.

The games were launched by a Lion and his wife, for handicapped young people to gather and compete against one another.

The coffee morning will help to pay for a coach and other expenses.

Win tickets to the Wales Open at a local library

BUNKER buffs and fairway fanatics have a chance to make their friends green with envy, by winning free tickets to this summer's Wales Open golf tournament at the Celtic Manor resort.

Bridgend Library and Information Service is offering local residents the chance of winning the remarkable reward by becoming a member of their local library.

With previous winners of the open including the likes of Graeme McDowell, Miguel Angel Jiménez and Ian Poulter, the competition gives golf enthusiasts the chance to share the course with some of the sport's biggest stars.

Coun Lyn Morgan, Bridgend county borough council's cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "Our libraries offer free services for all members of the community to enjoy, from audio-books, magazines and newspapers to

internet access and family history resources.

"With such a wide variety of free facilities and activities available, there's nothing sub-par about being a member of our libraries. I'd recommend everyone to sign up to their local library and enter the draw for a chance to win this marvellous prize."

Everyone who signs up to a library in Wales before Friday, August 9 will be entered into the draw to win the two course tickets to the ISPS Handa Wales Open, with one lucky winner's name being pulled out of the hat.

To find out more about the benefits of becoming a member of your local library, visit www.bridgend.gov.uk/libraries; you can also 'like' 'Bridgend Libraries' on Facebook, or follow @BridgendLibs and @BridgendCBC on Twitter.

For further information about the competition visit www.librarywales.org.

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"HOW COULD ANYONE BE SO CRUEL TO US..?"

Rest Bay shock Three kittens were abandoned in a bin bag

A HOLIDAY-MAKER enjoying the coastal path at Rest Bay was horrified to find three young kittens dumped in a bin bag.

The lady, Ms Chivers, was walking her Chihuahua dog when it started sniffing at the bin bag, and she heard faint cries coming from inside.

When she opened the bag, she found the little kittens suffering from heat exhaustion in the soaring temperature.

With her daughter's help, she carried them back to their caravan and cared for them overnight, before contacting Cats Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre for help, after making local enquiries.

Molly Hughes, the deputy manager at the centre, said: "Unfortunately, we are seeing more and more cats and kittens being cruelly abandoned, although this incident is particularly appalling.

"We believe these kittens were found soon after being abandoned and, thankfully, don't seem to have suffered

any long term effects from their ordeal".

The seven-week old kittens have been named Sunny, Summer and Sunshine.

Bridgend Adoption Centre takes in over 1,000 unwanted cats and kittens every year. Cats Protection advocates neutering kittens from four months of age and offers a part cost neutering scheme to members of the public on income-based benefits and low income.

Sue Dobbs, the centre manager, explained: "One unneutered female cat can produce up to 18 kittens a year, so neutering really will help to reduce the number of kittens brought to the charity or dumped and left to fend for themselves. Neutering also makes cats less likely to fight and pass on diseases, so it is also beneficial to your cat's health."

For advice about caring for a cat, or to offer a cat a home, call the centre on 01656 724396, or email bridgend@cats.org.uk

A GEM article prompts launch of ADHD website

A LOCAL support group for families involved with ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) has launched a website to highlight issues affecting children and adults diagnosed with ADHD in the Bridgend area.

Following an article which appeared in The GEM, Pyle and Kenfig Hill county borough councillor, Luke Ellis, says he was inundated with requests for further information on the condition.

He has now joined forces with local parents to launch a new support group for families and adults diagnosed with the condition in Bridgend.

Coun Ellis said: "The positive response from people has been overwhelming, and we have been fielding requests from all over the country for further information.

"I've received many touching emails from people who have been battling the condition in isolation, and have now decided to tell their loved ones and work colleagues, in an effort to gain more support and understanding.

"People recognise that ADHD should no

longer be a taboo topic and nor should it prevent people from being treated equally.

Mum of three, Zoe Piper from Pencoed, has been enlisting local business support for the group. She said: "Our ADHD Bridgend Facebook page offers advice, signposting and interesting articles, and is open to all who have an ADHD connection to join.

"Our ADHD Angels fundraising team are working hard to share our positive message about ADHD, whilst also raising crucial funds to support our work throughout Bridgend and businesses and individuals are welcome to support us.

"The website adhd-bridgend.org links to our online ADHD support group where families can support each other and have someone to turn to. For confidentiality reasons the page is private, but we also have a public open page where we post positive articles about ADHD issues including our inspirational ADHD person of the week."

Coun Ellis, who is scrutiny champion for assisted learning needs

at BCBC, says meetings with council, education and health officials to help develop and improve local services are taking place and urged people with ADHD diagnosis in the family to contact ADHD Bridgend to get involved.

"ADHD Bridgend is a positive awareness-raising movement where we support families and provide support, facts and up to date relevant information. The most recent European Brain Council White Paper suggests that one in 20 children may have ADHD, so this is clearly a growing issue in critical need of improved understanding and support.

"Our monthly support group meetings are held at Y Bont and we get together to talk about ADHD issues. Our upcoming 'Doing Something Different 4 ADHD campaign' is set to be going into schools across Bridgend over the next year.

"To find out how to get involved, or to join our support group, people can search ADHD Bridgend on Facebook, or find out more at www.adhdbridgend.org"

Rotary cheque for the carers



THE Rotary Club of Maesteg recently presented a cheque to Bridgend carers, to acknowledge the excellent work they are doing in the community.

In the picture (TOP) Helen Pitt of the carers receives the cheque from this year's president, Talfyn Harries.

Gwynfor joins the Club!
MR Gwynfor Phillips has been inducted as a member of the Rotary Club of Maesteg.

He has recently retired from teaching and says he is looking forward to using his experience to help the Rotary Club's fundraising activities in the community.

Gwynfor is congratulated and welcomed by president Talfyn Harries (ABOVE).

WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE?

Mrs Vicki Smith – 5 Heol Fechan, Llangewydd Court, Bridgend – Crown reduce Oak tree, reduce height and shape.
Mr Andrew Pearce – 6 Swn yr Adar, Pen-y-Fai – Crown raise, thinning of canopy, crown thin and 20 per cent overall reduction.
Mrs Nikki Furness Jones – 7 Bredenbury Gardens, Porthcawl – New build bungalow

with dormers (built within rear garden).
Mr Anthony Jones – 25 West Road, Porthcawl – Erect residential property in rear garden.
Mr Jack Jones – 33 Tan y Bryn, Pencoed – Two storey extension to side of property.
Mrs Maria Abulencia – 26 Llys Gwyn, Pontyrryl – Retention of single storey bathroom extension to rear of property.
Mr R Davies – 16

Shelley Drive, Bridgend – Garage, lobby, store in garage roof space, lobby and dormer extension.
Mr Mark Owen – 48 Station Street, Maesteg – Demolition of existing two storey annexe and provision of new two storey annexe.
Mr Carl Davies – 15 Station Row, Pontyrryl, Pontycymmer – Single storey bathroom extension to rear of property.
John and Patricia Todd

– The Infant Welfare Clinic, Waun Bant Road, Kenfig Hill – Change of use of former Infant Welfare Clinic to residential dwelling.
Mr Mark Humphreys – 32 Wesley Street, Maesteg – Store/shed extension to rear.
Mr A Pritchard – 4 Fenwick Drive, Brackla – Two storey extension to provide garage, bedroom and en-suite.
Mr and Mrs Ruddy – 22 Island Farm Close, Bridgend – Removal of conservatory and construction of a single storey rear extension.
David Atkinson – Unit 3, Plot 11, Village Farm Industrial Estate, Pyle – Change of use from Class A1 to use Class A3 hot food takeaway.
Northwood and Wepa Limited – S C A Hygiene Products Tissue Limited, Bridgend Paper Mills, Maesteg – Construction of new profiled metal roof to the secondary fibre plant.

Brackla in Bloom 2013



The annual competition will take place again this year. Judging will take place in July, followed by invitations to attend presentation afternoon on Saturday 21st September at Brackla Community Centre

Prizes for the following categories:

- Best front garden or a garden viewable from the front
- Best flower hanging baskets
- Best flower planters/tubs/window boxes

1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes for all categories.

If you would like to make a formal entry, please send a letter or email, together with a photograph to the following address:

Clerk of the Council, Brackla Community Council, c/o Oak Tree Surgery, Whitethorn Drive, Brackla CF31 2PQ

clerk@bracklacomunitycouncil.gov.uk



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'Llynfi Valley heartland of the Welsh language' SAYS TORY REGIONAL AM

Suzi Davies AM pictured with pupils at Y Diwlith nursery.



Southerndown wall gets a £70,000 refurbishment

A TOTAL of almost £70,000 is to be spent on restoring a local beauty spot.

The historic walled gardens at Dunraven Park in Southerndown will benefit from a £69,541.36 restoration grant from the Vale Council's rural regeneration partnership, Creative Rural Communities, under the 'Pride in Our Heritage' programme.

A council spokesperson said: "The area has an intriguing history, originally the site of an iron age hill fort and later dominated by a Gothic mansion, with its parkland, plantations and walled garden. The house was demolished in 1962."

The gardens are open every day of the year and entry is free, but large parts of the historic perimeter walls have fallen into disrepair and, without investment, there is a concern that public access to the gardens could be limited.

In total, £99,000 is to be spent, with fundraising contributions from Dunraven Estate and

from the Friends of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast, as well as an element of staff time used as match funding.

The project which will take place throughout the summer and early autumn. The gardens will remain open throughout this period and visitors this summer will be able to watch the restoration in progress.

Coun Gwyn John, the cabinet member for leisure, parks, culture and sports development, said: "The Heritage Coast Project has safeguarded this beautiful area and educated thousands of children about nature for decades."

"Now this grant and the support of the Friends group are

bringing about a huge improvement."

Coun Lis Burnett, the cabinet member for regeneration, innovation, planning and transportation, said: "The Glamorgan Heritage Coast is an invaluable tourism asset and the improved gardens will be the jewel in the crown."

The Creative Rural Communities team looks forward to helping groups and individuals develop small projects such as reviving historic events and activities, or creating small exhibitions which celebrate the heritage of the rural Vale.

For more information contact Helen Blackmore on 01446 704828, or hblackmore@valeofglamor.gov.uk

PACT meetings

COITY PACT, at Gilead Chapel, Heol Spencer on August 1 at 7pm.

CEFN GLAS, LLANGEWYDD and BRYNHAFRYD PACT, at Westward Community Centre on August 5 at 5.30pm.

MORFA TOWN PACT, at Penybont Primary School, Minerva Street, on August 12 at 6.30pm.

OLDCASTLE PACT at The Library, Brynteg Comprehensive School, on September 18 at 6.30pm.

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SHADOW culture and language minister Suzi Davies AM is backing efforts by one of the oldest Welsh medium nurseries in Wales to raise money for a new roof.

Mrs Davies, a Welsh Conservative regional AM for south Wales west, visited Y Diwlith, which was set up in Maesteg in 1947. Since then, thousands of children have started their school life there, before moving onto the town's Welsh language primary school.

Mrs Davies made the visit after hearing that the group, which is affiliated to Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin, needs up to £24,000 to pay for a new roof for its building in Bridgend Road.

The Meithrin moved into its own premises in the mid 1960s, taking over The Lamb public house. It still has its original Welsh slate roof.

The nursery is run by Jean James and Jane Bastian, who between them have clocked up more than 40 years' service. They also have a number of helpers and volunteers.

Mrs James explained that the building was very sound and completely safe, passing all inspections: "But the roof has reached the stage where it really needs to be replaced. We have patched it up over the years but the time has come to bite the bullet and raise the money we need."

Estimates for the work are currently being obtained from building firms and supporters have started a fundraising campaign to collect as much as they can.

Suzi Davies has promised to see what funding options may be available.

She said: "This nursery has been spreading the message about how important the future of the Welsh language is for more than 60 years. I am full of admiration for those pioneers who started this long before Welsh medium education was even on the horizon in lots of areas."

"My mother-in-law set up an ysgol feithrin many years ago and was so proud to see her own grandchildren attending it all those years later. It is just so much easier for children to absorb more than one language when they're very young."

"Llangynwyd has the highest percentage of Welsh speakers in Bridgend county borough and Maesteg is second, so the Llynfi Valley can be said to be the heartland of the language in this area."

The school started with just five pupils and now has places for up to 40 children aged two and three. It is an important feeder into Ysgol Gymraeg Cynwys Sant.

Mrs James said that the role of the meithrin was more crucial than ever.

She said: "The number of children going into Cynwys Sant is growing every year and it was the success of Welsh language education here that resulted in the decision to locate the area's Welsh medium secondary school - Ysgol Gyfun Llangynwyd - in the valley."

Suzi Davies added: "At a time when the percentage of Welsh speakers has dropped for a variety of reasons, it is more vital than ever that Welsh is promoted in the former mining valleys. It is part of their heritage."

"More than that, being bilingual can only ever be an advantage, not least an economic advantage. It is ysgolion meithrin and groups like them

which are ensuring that Welsh survives in areas like Maesteg."

She has urged local people to support fundraising activities by the group, which has a page on Facebook, and is also on Twitter.

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ALLOTMENTS OPENING BRINGS TREOES VILLAGERS TOGETHER

A FOUR-YEAR project in Treoes came to fruition recently – when the village's community allotments were officially opened.

A disused tennis court and common land is now the 'Treoes Community Allotments' – and it came about through the efforts of the villagers, with the support of the Community Foodie project and Creative Rural Communities.

The event co-ordinator, Julia Lloyd, said: "Treoes Community Allotments has enhanced community spirit."

"It has also been called 'Treoes Reunited' due to the support from plot holders and locals who have assisted with compost, water and tidying communal areas."

"The open day was celebration of the wealth of nature and community spirit this allotment has captured."

"Among others, our thanks go to community councillors, James Mordecai, Mari Major, Liz Matthews and Nigel Blethyn, and Rob McGhee of Community Foodie."

On the official opening day, Terry Walton, who extols the virtues of allotments on Radio-2's Jeremy Vine Show, was a special guest. Vale AM

Jane Hutt AM also attended.

Nadia De-Longhi, a member of the allotments committee, said: "It was a great community event."

Sarah Simpson said: "I was surprised to see what had been achieved in the short time of the open day."

Julia Lloyd said: "The plot holders could relate to a quote from Terry Walton's book *My Life on a Allotment Hillsides*: "...To me, it's not just a garden but a whole way of life with every visit a social occasion."

"To me, the allotment is a gym that helps keep me fit, it's my sunbed because it keeps me tanned, my stress counsellor because it's my way of relieving tension, and my means of relaxation in the open air."

Also thanked for their contributions were: Cross Farm Nursery, for a plant stall; local Brownies for creating an allotment sign; The Star (Treoes), Laleston Inn and the Cakerie for donating raffle prizes.

The project received funding through the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013, funded by the Welsh Government and the European Agricultural fund for Rural Development, via Creative Rural Communities.



Terry Walton was presented with a spade by the local Brownies, as a thank you for attending the event.



ABOVE: Jeff Evans, the chairman of the Treoes Community Allotment Committee, receives the official allotment poster, designed by the local Brownies.



ABOVE: Jane Hutt AM, community councillor Liz Matthews, and Rob McGhee of Community Foodie, enjoying the day.



ABOVE: The allotments as they look today.

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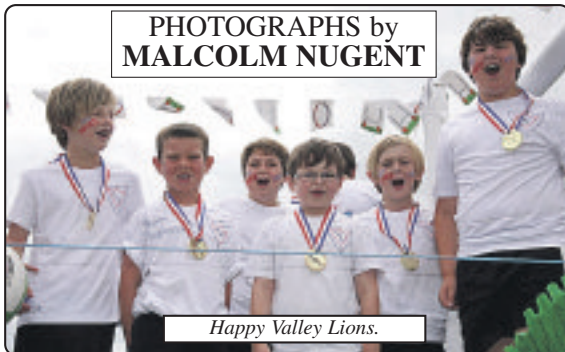
PORTHCAWL CARNIVAL brought together the whole community – young and old – and Malcolm Nugent was on hand to capture all the fun.

Aside from the pleasure it gives spectators and participants, the carnival also gives local organisations like charities a valuable showcase.

Winner of the best carnival float was 'The Performance House', a local youth theatre group.



PHOTOGRAPHS by
MALCOLM NUGENT



SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER AT THE PENCOED COMPREHENSIVE!

MATTHEW Cowell (year 10) has been selected by Welsh Fencing as a reserve for the Welsh Sabre Fencing team at the Sainsbury's 2013 UK School Games, to be held in Sheffield in September.

Matthew is representing Wales as part of a team of five school-age fencers. Matthew is also representing Wales at the British Youth Championships again this year, having qualified as a silver medallist at the Welsh Youth Championships.

Ella Griffiths (year-10) has been selected to play golf for Wales in Germany in European teams and has also been selected to play against England for Welsh Schools.

Another annual event in the summer term calendar at Pencoed Comprehensive School is the 'learning core summer programme'.

Pupils across the school take part in a whole range of activities linked to the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification (WBQ), Key Skills, careers, as well as personal, social and health education. Some of the activities are noted below.

Year-9 spent time during the summer programme working on their Working with Others element of the WBQ qualification with EBP (Education Business Partnership).

Pupils needed to gain excellent team working skills to complete the planning of an event, either a prom for year-11, a music festival or a sporting event. Pupils needed to prepare a pitch to present to a team of Dragons which comprised local entrepreneurs who would decide the winners!

As part of their WBQ programme, KS4 pupils took part in a Fairtrade day when they had the opportunity to speak to Martha, from Zimbabwe, and heard her reasons for supporting Fairtrade.

Pupils then completed a variety of activities, including playing the Trading Trainers game and life in family-run workshops, imagining the daily stress of making ends meet.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the Co-operative Store in Pencoed for its regular and generous donations of Fairtrade hampers for the ECO Club raffles in school.

Year-12 pupils spent a day of the summer programme learning valuable life skills such as cooking, sewing and furniture assembly.

They improved their team working skills for their 'Working with Others' qualification, allowing them to prepare for life after the 6th form!

They also spent a day at the University of South Wales as part of their WBQ careers programme and were provided with valuable advice for preparing a personal statement and assistance with



the UCAS application. On the fundraising side, year-11 pupils formed a small group and decided to start Bag2school to raise money for the school.

They organised themselves into small groups and took on roles such as marketing, promotion, bag preparation. Pupils went into assembly and promoted their event, designed posters which were displayed around the school and monitored the collection on the morning of the bag collection as well as helping to load the van with the bags. They sent 'wish lists' to departments to allow them to apply for their 'wish' to be granted from the money.

The initial collection made £150. A form group will take over the Bag2school project in September to continue to raise funds for the school's departments. Letters will be sent home asking for donations of old clothing etc for the bags.

It's time to bid farewell to a number of staff leaving us at the end of this term. Special best wishes go to Nicholas Brain, Deputy Head, who leaves us to take up his position as Headteacher at Bryntirion Comprehensive.

Mr Brain's dedication

and excellent contribution to the improved standards reached by the school are acknowledged by the Head, staff and governors.

Highly popular with colleagues and pupils alike, everyone will miss his presence in September. We all wish him the very best in his new post, and look forward to maintaining contact with him at Bryntirion.

A sad farewell also to Mrs Jo Griffiths in the English department who retires after 27 years at the school; also, Mr Terry Leary from the DT department who retires after 16 years' service.

Our best wishes also go to Mr Kris Wojciechowski, who will be putting his science expertise to good use at the Patent Office in Newport. Congratulations to Mrs Caroline Darch on her new post at Merthyr College and Mrs Bethan Dodd, who has worked with us over the last couple of years as maternity cover and as cover supervisor, on her appointment as RE teacher at Treorchy Comprehensive from next September.

Valerie Matthews who has worked with us on a part time basis over the last year in the MFL Department is also leaving. Our thanks go to

them all for their hard work and support.

In September, we'll be welcoming Joanne Casson and Karena Torpey as English teachers, Mathew Thompson as CDT teacher and Jonathan Hancock as science teacher.

Recently appointed support staff are Amy Williams and Charlie Bold as classroom assistants/LSAs in the Learning Resource centre. Also new from September are Angharad Jones as cover supervisor and Hollie Roberts as learning support officer, Pupil Participation.

Geography department staff and pupils recently visited Sorrento in Italy. During their time abroad, they had an opportunity to appreciate what it is like to live in southern Italy in the shadow of the mighty Vesuvius.

On a more local level, 80 year-10 pupils braved the immense heat of the last couple of weeks on the Duke of Edinburgh practice and qualifying Bronze expeditions recently. Twelve year-12 pupils also took part in a three-day practice Silver expedition ready for the qualifying expedition on the Gower in early September.

Well done all of those who took part – including

the staff, who were just as tired as the pupils at the end of these expeditions!

Congratulations to all of those pupils whose contributions to school life and attendance records were celebrated in the years 7, 8 and 9 achievement ceremonies recently.

The 6th formers and year-11 pupils also arranged successful prom evenings recently which were enjoyed by pupils and staff alike.

Andy Rea, Chair of the governing body at Pencoed Comprehensive, has announced that it's been awarded the 'Governors Wales Quality Mark Bronze Award' – the first in the Bridgend local authority to have achieved the award since implementation in June 2012.

The award is endorsed by the Welsh Government and ADEW (Association of Directors of Education in Wales) – the professional group of local authority officers accountable for statutory education functions.

With the growing emphasis now on the role of governors in schools, the Quality Mark acts as a valuable benchmark, ensuring that the governing body has the correct processes and policies in place so that it can make a valuable contribution to

the leadership and management of the school in raising standards.

This has certainly been the case for Pencoed Comprehensive. David George, the Headteacher, stated: "The support of the governing body and the interest that its members have in all aspects of school life is valued highly by myself and my colleagues on the school staff. This support has certainly been instrumental in helping us improve our standards. We are delighted that their hard work and attention to detail has been acknowledged with this award."

The senior citizens' lunches return on September 10 and are held in the school during term time at 12pm every Tuesday and Thursday. If you haven't attended these lunches before please just come along to reception.

Our 6th formers and canteen staff will be ready to welcome you.

The first meeting of FoPCS (Friends of Pencoed Comprehensive School) will be held at 6.30pm on September 25. Present and new parents are welcome, as well as anyone else from the local community aged over 16 who would be interested in supporting FoPCS' fundraising activities for the school. LH



Shout for Elvis!



IT'S My Shout is calling on Elvis Tribute artists to become involved in a film for the 'Made In Wales' Series this year.

This film will be in partnership with Arts Connect, filming in locations in and around Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Merthyr Tydfil, on August 9, 10, 11.

Contact info@itsmyshout.co.uk.

Deadline is Wednesday, July 31.

It's My Shout Productions has teamed up with BBC Wales to produce original short films, with upcoming actors and production crew from across Wales!

They are part of a series of eight short films (two Welsh language films) set in locations across Wales, as part of the 'Made in Wales' series on BBC Wales and S4C.

HOME FETE

A FETE will be held at Oaklands residential care home, Oaklands Drive, Bryntirion Hill, CF31 4SH to raise funds for the residents on July 27 (12 noon to 3pm). Tombola, bric-a-brac, book stall, cakes, teas, raffle and bouncy castle.

Contact 07715573170 or 01656 665459.

Cynffig School

A CAPTION in The GEM's recent report on the visit of Prince Charles to the Prince of Wales public house contained an error.

Official information said that the Prince would be welcomed by the headteacher and head boy and girl. In fact, he was welcomed by the acting headteacher, Mrs Hannah Castle.

She was accompanied by head boy Bradley Harris, and deputy head girl, Kelly Charles.



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Cowbridge is all set to celebrate a decade of food and drink in style!

ONE of Wales' most popular food and drink festivals is preparing to mark its 10th anniversary in real style – with a host of guaranteed crowd pleasers added to the popular format.

Launched in 2004, the award-winning Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival takes place this year on October 26-27 and is gearing up to be the best event yet.

Thousands of food and drink lovers flock to the festival every year to sample some of the best in Welsh produce, as well as exotic fare from further afield.

High profile sponsors have been confirmed in the form of HSBC and Waitrose and this year's brand new wristband ticket system will provide benefits to both town traders and festival goers alike, as shops and bars are encouraged to offer discounts or added extras to those wearing them to draw them into their own establishments.

The ever-popular Champagne marquee will this year move to the bigger Vale Forge site while

the Kids' Zone promises to offer everything a little one could possibly want from a fun day out – all under one roof at Fun Foundations Nursery.

Outdoor activity to entertain the youngsters will also include a Scarecrow Trail around the town – courtesy of sponsorship from Liqueur Laces on Penny Lane.

Craft lovers will enjoy browsing the stalls of the craft fayre in the town hall and extra activities are also planned in the Bear Hotel.

The Fringe and Entertainment Zone will come together in The Old Hall Gardens, offering entertainment for all the family with musical performances, workshops, discussions and extra stalls to browse.

Run by a volunteer committee, the festival has grown in size from a small one day event to a weekend of festivities involving the whole town, while still retaining its signature intimate atmosphere.

Speaking about the 2013 Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival, festival manager Polly Wilson said: "More than 12,000

visitors joined us last year and exhibitors considered Cowbridge the Best Festival of its size in Wales – in our tenth year, we're planning even bigger and better things!

"We've changed and developed several elements of the festival this year that we're sure will prove a hit with our visitors.

Combining The Food Fringe with the Entertainment Zone for example is an exciting prospect, and we'll be working closely with HubCowbridge in the run up to the event to co-ordinate.

"As stalls at the main site always sell out early, this will be a great opportunity for additional food-related businesses to take part and also offers an affordable platform for smaller, local producers to showcase their products – enhancing both visitor and local residents' experience of the festival, which can only be a good thing," Polly added.

Family pay tribute to Miskin road victim

THE family of a 24-year-old pedestrian, who died in a road accident early on Saturday in Miskin, Dafydd Kidner, have paid a heartfelt tribute.

He was from the village of Gilfach Goch and had a three-year-old son. He was employed as a railman, maintaining tracks throughout south Wales and the west of England.

His parents Alan and Keryl, said: "Dav was a wonderful father, son, partner, grandson, brother, brother-in-law, nephew, uncle and friend.

"It is an understatement to say his death has completely devastated everybody who knew him. Dav was a hard working, much loved young man taken from us in the prime of his life.

"It is so tragic, he had everything to live for. We were and always will be



DAFYDD KIDNER.

ment to say his death has completely devastated everybody who knew him. Dav was a hard working, much loved young man taken from us in the prime of his life.

"It is so tragic, he had everything to live for. We were and always will be

so proud of our son."

They also expressed their thanks for all the support and love they have received from family and friends at this difficult time.

South Wales Police are continuing to appeal for information about the incident, which occurred at around 1.30am on Saturday, July 20 on the A4119 at Miskin, just north of its junction to School Road.

The woman driver of the red Ford Focus involved in the collision has been helping police with their enquiries.

Anyone with information about the incident, should call 101, or Crimestoppers (anonymously) on 0800 555 111.

Puppy walkers hand over charges for Hunt show...



THE Glamorgan Hunt held their puppy show in glorious sunshine, when visiting judges chose the best of the young hounds returning to kennels from their training with 'puppy walkers'.

Hunt staff are augmented this year by a very keen young apprentice!



CHARITY GOLF EVENT

TEE off with Welsh Hearts at a charity golf day in Whitchurch Golf Club, Cardiff, in support of cardiomyopathy in Wales.

Shot gun start at 1pm on October 17. The competition will be a team stableford, with the best two scores to count on each hole; 3/4 handicap allowance; maximum handicap allowance, men 24, ladies 30.

For full details, contact fundraising@welshhearts.org or 07730944700.

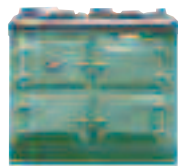
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EyePAT ANTI-BULLYING CAMPAIGN IS LAUNCHED AT THE SENEDD...



LEFT: The campaign launch at The Senedd sponsored by AM Jane Hutt.

AN anti-bullying campaign has been launched at the Senedd by EyePAT CIC.

Face-to-face and cyber bullies now target nearly half of schoolchildren and a third of working adults, and the Happy Kids and Happy People's programme is about getting to the root cause of this social problem.

As Penny Steinhauer, EyePAT's Training Director, explained, there are basically four types of bully –

Accidental, Opportunistic,

Substance Abuse and Chronic. 'Happy Kids and Happy People Don't Bully' is a project specifically designed to work with the chronic bully.

During a five-minute exercise, the audience, who included many headteachers, mental health charities, businesses, children's charities, unions, health boards and youth offending teams, came up with 121 reasons why some people bully.

They listed "low self-esteem", "need to control",

"jealousy", "self defence", "being abused", "insecurity, feeling threatened", "peer behaviour" and "pressurised".

These words were transferred onto bricks to create a powerful visual impact.

Instead of seeing an 'in-control' and 'powerful bully', the audience saw sad people weighed down by their problems and clearly in need of support and help.

ST RICHARD GWYN PUPILS PUT LANGUAGE SKILLS TO GOOD USE!

IN a collaboration between St Teilo's School, Cardiff Arts Centre, and the Cardiff University Confucius Institute, year-12 pupils enjoyed three days of language learning and cultural activities – as

part of their Welsh Baccalaureate (WBQ) language module.

All pupils had a day of language study in Mandarin Chinese, Spanish or Italian. They were able to put their language skills into action in a range of activities at Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff.

These included creative arts, film studies, dance and movement, Tai Chi and food tasting.

TEAM ENTERPRISE

Congratulations to year-12 pupils Daniel Manton and Joe Morgan, who won this year's WBQ Team Enterprise competition.

Their novel idea for self-cleaning windows along with their imaginative presentation and well-prepared business plan made them worthy winners against stiff competition.

Judges commented on the very high quality of presentations this year, and the great amount of effort shown by pupils.

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20 & 21 July The Isle of Fire

Barry Island will be transformed into a lost island Fire Garden. Explore this fiery landscape inspired by tales of the deep, where legends of fire breathing flowers, enchanted glowing trees and a Viking ghost ship long lost in time are all brought to life. From dusk each day.

27 & 28 July Street Dance

Featuring Team Extreme performances and workshops on Sat and Sun. Sunday will be packed with performances from local groups from Motion Control Dance. 11am to 4pm each day.

3 & 4 August Street Art

Let loose your artistic flair by drawing on the mini cubes along the prom or try the free graffiti workshops. All ages welcome - 11am to 4pm each day.

10 & 11 August Zapcats

Fast and furious Zapcat powerboat action. The adrenalin- pumped racing will take place on both days from 11am.

17 & 18 August Seaside Sport

Enjoy a host of sports by the sea. Take part in Beach Volleyball, Disability sports and Beach cricket. Try your skills on the surf simulator and the climbing wall and explore the Play Village. The England Beach Soccer Team will also be on the beach. The event will end with Zumba on the Prom with Andrea - Sunday at 5pm.

24 & 25 August Cinema by the Sea

Enjoy an evening of cinema by the sea
Saturday from 8.30pm
BACK TO THE FUTURE
Sunday from 8.30pm
GREASE SING-A-LONG



Bring a picnic and a blanket and enjoy some music before the film starts.

All events take place along the prom or Island Gardens. Please note events may change at short notice. For more information please call 01446 704737 or go to www.visitthevale.com

Graham's cycle challenge sets bar high!

EVERY year, The GEM receives reports of local people taking on charity challenges – and the bar is constantly being raised as people look for something that will stand out.

So, when we carried a report recently of Llancarfan's Graham Brain, and his marathon cycling tour of Britain, it took a while for the scale of his achievement to sink in.

After all, cycling challenges are quite common, and tend to attract fairly fit men and women – often keen cyclists who are at home on a bike.

You might not be Chris Froome or Sir Bradley Wiggins, but it is no place for Norm from Cheers!

So, just what possessed a 60-year-old man – whose weight had crept up past the 21 stone mark – to contemplate a John O'Groats to Land's End cycle.

Was Graham a keen cyclist in his past? No.

In fact, his experience on two wheels was on a motor bike, and that ended in a nasty crash at the age of 17, that left him with a broken ankle – and limited movement in the joint to this day.

However, he didn't

Report by PHILIP IRWIN

settle for a straight line between those two points. He looked for other places he could aim for. He chose the easternmost point, the westernmost, the furthest from the sea, and even the highest point!

In the end, he criss-crossed the UK so much that the ride totalled more than 1,500 miles and raised more than £8,000 for the road safety charity Brake.

It was two years in the planning so Graham was 62 when he set out to cycle 50 miles every day, over 35 days, starting from Dunnet Head, via John O'Groats and to Land's End – with a multitude of diversions.

Graham told The GEM: "I started my training on an exercise bike, and it was September 2012 before I took a bike out on the road.

"Even then, the weather was so bad over the winter and spring that I really didn't do that much out of doors."

However, he must have worked hard on that exercise bike, because by the starting date, he had reduced his weight to 17 stone – a great improvement but still not the ideal cycling

build! Nevertheless, it was all down to Graham when he started in the far north of Scotland. Road Safety Support Limited, a not profit organisation, who work with ACPO, provided a support vehicle throughout the five weeks of the challenge but Graham had to do all the pedalling!

He told The GEM: "In many ways Scotland was the best – and the worst.

There were beautiful days riding through wonderful scenery, but it also included my two worst days."

This was due to Graham's determination to reach the highest point in Britain – Ben Nevis of course. It was not bike terrain, so he had to climb to the top, which was tiring enough, but he had an unexpected problem coming down!

He said: "My old ankle injury meant that it was really painful coming down. The ankle didn't flex for walking downhill – and I really struggled on that stretch."

Worse was to come on the following day, because he had to cycle from Fort William, at sea level, up Glen Coe



ABOVE: Graham was joined by family members, including grandchildren, for the final stretch to Land's End.



RIGHT: relaxing home in Llancarfan after his 35-day cycling effort.

and across Rannoch Moor, including 2,493ft of climbing.

He said: "After 10.5 hours the previous day on 'The Ben', I could hardly stand up and the following morning I had to stand on a step just to get onto my cycle.

"It was very tough, especially when you're totally exhausted at the start of a 50-mile day."

There were other tough times too, and in the final week of his ride, through Cornwall, general wear and tear and an "endless amount of hills" were a real problem.

Keeping Graham going through the tough times was his determination to help his charity, BRAKE.

He said: "Road safety charities don't get much

publicity, and after hearing what wonderful work BRAKE does in promoting road safety and in the support of victims and relatives of victims of road collisions, they seemed to me to be an obvious choice."

The trip left Graham with a great deal of sympathy for cyclists. He said: "I tried to avoid causing any congestion behind me by using the cycle paths/lanes if available.

"In saying that though, on some of the paths it was impossible to cycle, due to the poorly maintained surface or vegetation growing over it and I had to resort to getting back onto the carriageway.

"Some cycle paths I came across were ridicu-

lous, I would leave the carriageway and within less than 100 yards would be confronted with an 'End of Cycle Route' sign – which meant having to rejoin the carriageway again.

"I obeyed all the traffic signals I came to, unlike a lot of other cyclists I saw, just riding through a red light into the junction. It's no wonder that cyclists get a bad reputation."

He continued: "The vast majority of motor vehicles made allowances for me on my cycle but a small percentage didn't.

"In some cases I felt that I could have cleaned their nearside window with my elbow as they passed, and on a few occasions I had to brake hard as they came

around me, only to turn left directly in front of me!

"Other road users need to understand that a strong gusty side wind, while not affecting a motor car, will have quite an effect on a cyclist, just as a small pothole could easily dismount a cyclist but not be felt in a car.

"It's impossible to just cycle a straight line because of these."

However, the experience has left Graham with an appreciation of the joys of cycling, and he is planning to continue taking leisurely rides around the vale – as soon as his knee, which played up towards the end of the five weeks, is fully recovered.

Graham's enthusiasm

for road safety stems from working for Serco for 24 years, and he strongly believes that the company's main product makes a huge difference to road safety.

That product – and at this point there is a chance that one or two readers may turn against Graham – is speed cameras!

TRAVEL

Madeira

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12 August and 30 September 2013

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Out and About with The GEM

It's 'moth ado about nothing' on wildlife watch

ON Friday, July 26, the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales (WTSWW), along with experts from Butterfly Conservation and the Glamorgan Moth Group, will be running a moth trapping evening at

WTSWW's Cwm Colhuw reserve near Llantwit Major.

Moths are a rather under-appreciated group, particularly compared to their close relations, the butterflies. The UK has about 60 butterfly species, compared to more than 2,400 moths,

and many of the moths are at least as spectacular in appearance as butterflies.

During the moth trapping event, there will be a number of powerful light traps running on the reserve and we will be identifying the species that come to visit them.

Experts will be on hand to talk about this fascinating group of insects and open your eyes to the beautiful nocturnal creatures that exist in the countryside around us.

The event will run from 9pm until approximately 1am and is free, but booking is essential as the date may change if the weather forecast is unsuitable.

Anyone is welcome to go along and there is no obligation to stay until the end but please contact WTSWW's Conservation Officer at v.matthews@welsh-wildlife.org in order to book a place.

What's on in and around your area

Cowbridge concert

COWBRIDGE Male Voice Choir will hold its annual concert at Cowbridge Leisure Centre on Saturday (July 27) at 7pm, supported by the Vulcan String Quartet.

This year's performance includes the Hallelujah Chorus and tickets will be available at the door.

All the revenue from the concert will be used to enable the choir to support worthwhile charities.

Model show

BARRY Tourist Railway is holding its first 'Big Barry, Big Scale Model Railway Exhibition' on July 27.

The modelling show will be officially opened at 10.30am by Coun Lis Burnett in the main station building and under a 60-metre canopy. The permanent outdoor Gauge 3 running track

will also be opened.

Entrance to the exhibition, adults £3, children (under 16) £2.

Classic car rally

ON Sunday, July 28, the Barry Tourist Railway will be hosting the Big Barry classic car rally with the Glamorgan Classic Car Club at Barry Island Station on Sunday, July 28 from 10.30pm-4.30pm. Most of the cars date from the 1950s-70s, plus pre-war classics, military vehicles and motorbikes. Admission is free.

ValePlus trip

VALEPLUS, the local charity that provides learning and leisure opportunities for people with a learning disability, is running a trip to the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust Centre in Llanelli on Saturday, August 3.

This is a part of the introduction to bird-watching course, run in conjunction with the WEA, which many ValePlus learners recently completed.

The trip is open to all members, friends and family and costs £15, which includes the entry to the centre and activities. Meet in ValePlus in High Street, Barry at 10am, return by 4pm. Further details from Steve on 01446 746691.

Dinas Powys fun run

ON Bank Holiday Monday, August 26, Dinas Powys Community Council is hosting a one-mile fun run to commemorate the opening of the new playground on Dinas Powys Common, which includes a new adventure area and outdoor gym.

The playground was built with financial support from the European Agriculture Fund, via the Creative Rural Communities Organisation.

The one-mile course follows the edge of the common and is ideal for families and runners alike. Prizes will be

awarded to the first home; male, female, under-12, and family, best fancy dress (family and individual). The race will start at 11am.

Download registration form at www.dpvc-dinaspowys.com or pick up from the post office/Parish Office. The community council will be donating all proceeds to Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern.

Village show

ALL arrangements are now in hand for this year's Dinas Powys village show on August 31.

There are 102 classes. Schedules are now available at libraries in Dinas Powys and Penarth; the two Post Offices in Dinas Powys; both chemist shops on the Cardiff Road and at Camms Corner; Brynawel Fuchsia and Garden Centre; Budgens, Cardiff Road, and the Community Council Office in Britway Road.

Further information from Val Hartrey on 029 2051 3274 or val-hartrey@talktalk.net.

Local historian publishes his second novel

Dr Jonathan Hicks, headteacher of St Cyres School, Penarth, and well-known to GEM readers as a local historian, has published his second novel.

Born in Barry, Dr Hicks received much acclaim for his first novel in the Thomas Oscendale series.

Set during the third year of the First World War, his debut *The Dead of Mametz* followed Captain Thomas Oscendale's efforts to arrest a murderer amongst the soldiers of the Welsh Division, who were poised to begin their assault on the German-held Mametz Wood.

Dr Hicks' sequel, *Demons Walk Among Us*, finds Thomas Oscendale fresh from the horrors of war on the Western Front and on leave in the coastal town of Barry, where he is drawn into the investigation of the savage murder of a war widow.

The novel paints a vivid picture of life in the trenches, as well as

life in the industrial towns of south Wales during the Great War.

"Demons Walk Among Us is set one year on from the first novel in the series," explained Dr Hicks.

"As 2014 marks 100 years since the outbreak of the First World War, there has been a burgeoning of interest in its history and I truly believe that a novel focused around a central character set in this time period will attract widespread interest. Crime novels set in the Great War are something of a rarity."

As well as a writer of fiction, Dr Hicks is also the author of four books on military history.

He won the Victorian Military Society's top award for an article from his first book, *A Solemn Mockery* in 2006, and was awarded the Western Front Association Shield in 2010 for an illustrated account of his hometown's military past, *Barry and the Great War*.

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Day Trips for 2013

Date	Day	Destination	Adult Fare	OAP/Child
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03/08/2013	Saturday	Windsor	£14.00	£13.00
06/08/2013	Tuesday	Moreton in the Marsh 'Cotswolds'	£11.00	£10.00
11/08/2013	Sunday	Oakwood Park or Folly Farm (Coach Only)	£9.50	£8.50
13/08/2013	Tuesday	West Midlands Safari (Coach Only)	£14.50	£13.50
17/08/2013	Saturday	Wells & Burnham on Sea	£11.50	£10.95
25/08/2013	Sunday	Drayton Manor (Coach Only)	£15.00	£13.00
31/08/2013	Saturday	Tenby & Saundersfoot	£10.95	£10.00
11/09/2013	Wednesday	Carmarthen Market & Tenby	£ 9.50	£ 9.00
21/09/2013	Saturday	Bicester, Oxfordshire	£14.00	£13.00
12/10/2013	Saturday	Tewksbury & Ross on Wye 'Labels'	£11.50	£10.50
26/10/2013	Saturday	Stratford Upon Avon (Early Xmas Shopper)	£12.95	£11.95
23/11/2013	Saturday	Cheltenham Christmas Shopper	£11.50	£11.00
30/11/2013	Saturday	Worcester Victorian Christmas Fayre	£13.75	£13.00
TBA	Await Date	Caerphilly Medieval Xmas Fayre	TBA	TBA
08/12/2013	Sunday	Bath Christmas Market	£13.75	£12.75
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Out and About with The GEM

World's End a fitting finale to comic trilogy

WHEN Edgar Wright and Simon Pegg, whose biggest claim to fame was cult sitcom *Spaced*, released their debut film, *Shaun of the Dead*, in 2004, nobody could have predicted the huge success the film would generate, with Pegg going on to provide comedic support in the likes of *Mission: Impossible 3* and *Star Trek*, while Wright became a Hollywood director with *Scott Pilgrim vs The World*.

The second part of their 'Cornetto' trilogy was 2008's *Hot Fuzz*, bringing them even greater acclaim and success, and the pair close out the trilogy with *The World's End*.

Pegg plays Gary King, who wants to reunite his old gang of friends (Nick Frost, Martin Freeman, Paddy

Considine and Eddie Marsan) to complete the 'Golden Mile' pub crawl in their old home town, something that they had failed to do in their youth.

However, as old tensions bubble to the surface, the feeling that something isn't quite right in the town escalates dramatically, as the five try to reach their final destination – the aptly-named *World's End*...

Given the amount of success Simon Pegg and Edgar Wright have achieved since *Shaun of the Dead*, you would have thought they would have been far too busy to knock out another homegrown comedy effort, and, if they could find the time to, the ensuing film would no doubt be compromised by their outside, and far more lucrative interests.

However, the pair have never been ones to shy away from giving their fans what they want, and *The World's End* makes a fitting finale to their trilogy, the film packed with laughs but with a



by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

mature outlook that reflects on youth mispent and how we change, but coupled to an *Invasion of the Bodysnatchers*-esque plot that doesn't prove to be a step too far.

Their previous films have always matched high-concept with the grounded, and *The World's End* hits a similar vein, the science fiction backdrop playing a supporting role to the themes of friendship – and how life doesn't always give you everything you wanted or hoped.

In the lead, Pegg hits the same comedy notes you would expect, but matches the depth that his and Wright's script aims for, a performance highly comedic but always hinting at the sadness lurking below.

His sidekick, Nick Frost, has always played the buffoon to Pegg's straighter character, but here the roles are reversed (for the first hour at least). It makes for a refreshing change of pace seeing the

dynamic switch, while the likes of Martin Freeman, Paddy Considine and Eddie Marsan are pitch-perfect alongside them.

With old faces from their previous films and *Spaced* popping up, it's easy to sense this is a line being drawn by the pair, and it is a fine note to go out on, if that is the case – with Wright's direction, all verve, fast-cuts and clever visual tics – brimming with invention yet showing a degree of restraint.

There is nothing here that doesn't hit the spot if you're a fan of the pair's work, but those who are not won't be converted by the end credits, while even their most ardent admirers may be a little disappointed at the way the climax peters out rather than ends with a bang.

However, *The World's End* is a likeable, funny film that makes for an entertaining experience.

VERDICT: Simon Pegg and Edgar Wright's 'Cornetto' trilogy is 'topped' off nicely (I couldn't resist) with *The World's End*, a funny film that manages to balance laughter with pathos and body-snatching! With a well-tuned cast, and Wright's strong direction, the film is well worth a watch. *Recommended.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Paul* (2011), *Shaun of the Dead* (2004).

Welsh Rock Choir members join the 'Rockies' at O2 Arena!

ROCKING LONDON!



ROCK Choir members from Cardiff, Penarth, Bridgend, Cowbridge, Pontyclun and Neath, enjoyed their biggest 'gig' yet, when they joined more than 12,000 fellow 'Rockies' at London's O2 Arena.

Rock Choir is the UK's largest and most popular contemporary choir, with more than 16,000 members in over 250 communities.

Founder and director Caroline Redman Lusher and 60 Rock Choir leaders who run weekly singing sessions across the UK were on stage to perform with the choir.

Local Rock Choir leaders Stephanie Bailey and Katie Thomas said: "We worked really hard

rehearsing for this fantastic event and it was all worth it. I'm so proud of everyone and it was great to see our flags and banners flying.

"Being able to sing with thousands of other Rock Choir members in such a huge and iconic arena was hugely uplifting and inspiring. The sound was just incredible."

A poignant moment came when Sarah Godwin, whose son Quentin went missing 21 years ago, talked about her search for him.

She told the packed arena how with the support of Rock Choir, the charity Missing People had offered a lifeline to her and her family.

For more information visit www.rockchoir.com or telephone 01252 714 276.

Laurie's hike

MR LAURIE BROPHY, aged 81, is fundraising for Y Bont – by taking part in an unaccompanied 177-mile hike.

The Offa's Dyke trail passes through eight counties and crosses the border between Wales and England more than 20 times.

"I will carry a sleeping bag and will sleep wherever I feel tired enough, bunkhouses are available for bad weather but I will try not to use them. I will carry a bivvy bag for dew and drizzle; food will be available from villages and pubs along or near the path," Laurie said.

You can sponsor Laurie at www.justgiving.com/81stBirthdayChallenge or Text ybon13.

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Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan lottery draw number D784.

● £2,000: 387290.

● The rollover, which now stands at £2,500, was not won this week.

● £10: 346312, 131092, 656041, 535701, 527759, 446972, 420910, 507933, 818509, 520150, 659206, 330637, 331532, 155933, 370372, 222547, 742210, 895449, 813928, 443945.

● £5: 519214, 855303, 670335, 691194, 319670, 779437, 561866, 717699, 502216, 366144, 238550, 584083, 735766, 670654, 618783, 683696.

AUTHOR'S NEW BOOK

A CRACKED IMAGINATION is an anthology of short stories from Barry-based author Penny Richards, which "explores the mind's diverse nature through the eyes of ten separate characters, and offers a wide range of stories that question our own ideas of reality versus fiction."

It is published by Jelly Bean Books, an affiliate imprint of Candy Jar Books, and is available as a paperback, at £9.99.

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RAF CELEBRATES ITS PROUD LOCAL LINKS AT MoD St ATHAN



The 75th anniversary cake.

RAF personnel past, present and future, gathered at MoD St Athan on July 9, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the continued occupancy of the RAF and No 4 School of Technical Training at the site.

A number of visitors were ex-boy entrants who had chosen to make the date to coincide with their annual reunion. Some had even come from as far afield as Canada. Many high ranking officers, who had St Athan connections, including Air Officer Wales, Air Commodore Williams and ex-St Athan Commanding Officer, now Group Captain Rob Woods, were also in attendance, together with local dignitaries and Vale MP Mr Alun Cairns.

The day began with a meet and greet and the chance to view some RAF history in Harlech Flight. This building was remembered by many as the former Sandes Club and brought back many happy memories for many an ex-Serviceman or woman.

Everyone then moved to the Station's Astra Cinema where the current Station Commander, Wing Commander Paul Regan, gave a welcome brief and overview of MoD St Athan today.

Other events throughout the day included a service in the Station Church, now a multi-faith centre, to mark the occasion.

This was well attended and to accommodate the 600 plus people, the doors which join the church to the gymnasium had to be opened.

The address was made by Rev Colin Richards, the (St Athan) Military Wives Choir sang accompanied by the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band and the soloist for the service was Mrs Wendy Kupinski.

Children from Wick and Marcross School also attended, along with the Normandy Veterans

Association.

Following the service, there was the opportunity to view the many different aspects of military life at St Athan, past, present and future. In the stone gym, different trade groups had set out stands demonstrating the most up-to-date training methods alongside some of the older equipment that the RAF has used.

Former Instructor, John Lynch, said: "It has been a wonderful opportunity for me to come and see what has transpired there since I left over 26 years ago.

"I was surprised to find that Electrical Training Flight (ETF) training continues in the same hangar that I was responsible for all those years ago.

"I received a very warm welcome by everybody and enjoyed a tour of the present day training facilities.

"It was most interesting also to see the developments in the Principles Flight, as I had taken up a related teaching role at a local college on leaving the RAF at St Athan.

"I was made very welcome by the staff and it made my day to meet one of them who started his Direct Entry Technician course while I was at ETF."

RAF Careers were able to show all the current roles in the RAF today and explain the modern recruiting process. The centre piece display was a full size replica Spitfire which proved as popular with the younger visitors as it did with the more mature ones who could remember them flying.

At 2pm, there was a formal parade that had the veterans parading alongside. Serving Airmen of the present and Air Cadets, who will be the next generation.

Parade Commander Flight Lieutenant Dave Nash carried the Wilkinson Sword, which was loaned to the station to mark the event. The Wilkinson Sword is owned by the Vale of Glamorgan and was a gift to the borough when



RAF Falcons arrive.

RAF St Athan was granted the Freedom of the Borough in May 1974.

Officer Commanding No 22 (Training) Group, Air Vice Marshal Mike Lloyd, took the salute, with a flypast by a Hawk Aircraft from RAF Valley.

AVM Lloyd then reviewed the troops, taking the opportunity to speak to several from each of the contingents. There was also a flyby by a VC10 and a De Havilland Hornet Moth.

The event concluded with a spectacular jump by the RAF Falcon parachute display team.

Mayor of the Vale, Mrs Margaret Wilkinson, was invited to join Wing Commander Regan to take the salute before being introduced to the team.

Background

The Ministry of Defence purchased land from local farms at Eglwys Brewis in June 1936.

However, Eglwys Brewis was not to be the allocated name for the new camp, as it was generally assumed that RAF St Athan would be easier to pronounce.

The building work commenced in 1938 with an RAF hospital and throughout the year a perimeter track was laid and three grass runways. Keen to finish for occupancy, a recreation building was put up which housed an Astra cinema, large dance hall/gymnasium, three churches, a swimming pool and a large roller skating rink.

The first station commander, Group Captain E Brownson-Rice, also arrived in 1938 accompanied by the adjutant, Flight Lieutenant The Lord Dudley. In addition, the first party of 25 airmen transferred from

2 (Training) Wing at RAF Henlow.

Despite the accommodation being 'basic', each hut was allowed a single wireless (radio) at the cost of one penny per man per week.

Added to this, the airmen had to pay sixpence a week towards a ticket home when they had leave, four shillings a week to their family allotment, plus sixpenny haircut tokens and all this from a wage of two shillings a day.

Less than a year after the gates to the camp opened they received a visit from the Prime Minister, Mr Neville Chamberlain (June 1939).

At 1100hrs on September 2 1939, an Air Ministry signal ordered the general mobilisation of the RAF.

Two days later, war was declared and within the next two days over 1,300 airmen arrived. Everyone was ordered to send home all their civilian clothes – and even the Station Commander got involved in the sandbag filling.

In 1942, 4SoTT started training flight engineers on the Stirling, Halifax, Lancaster, Sunderland, Liberator and Catalina. By the end of 1943, the extremely high casualty rate on Bomber Command operations meant that there was a huge demand for flight engineers.

At the height of the war, there could be as many as 5,000 flight engineers training at St Athan at any one time, with 500 at a time completing their training.

After the war, the station continued working on its geographical divide, with the West Camp home to the maintenance units whilst the East Camp continued as



The Station Commander arrives at the church.



Meeting members of the Association.

the home of No 4 School of Technical Training.

Over the years, it has also been home to the Driver Training School, RAF Mountain Rescue Unit, Aircraft Recovery and Transportation and at its height was home to over 14,000 personnel.

Therefore, it was no surprise that more than 300 veterans returned to meet up with old friends, relive their youth, and to visit 4SoTT and see the changes made in training techniques and technology over the years.

Report by JANE BISSETT



Group Captain Rob Woods chats to veterans.

New priest Melanie sports red!

MANCHESTER-born Melanie Prince has taken over as priest-in-charge at Porthkerry and Rhose from Rev David Treharne, who has moved to Tidenham (St Mary) with Beachley and Lancut in the diocese of Gloucester.

Melanie was licensed in a special service at St Peter's Church, Rhose, by the Assistant Bishop of Llandaff, David Wilbourne, last week.

During her first year at Lampeter University Melanie felt God was calling her to serve as a

minister and switched courses from ancient history and archaeology to theology.

"I was the first person from my family to go to university and growing up on a council estate in Manchester meant that I thought being a vicar was something that old, posh blokes did!" said Melanie.

"I thought vicars were nice and they weren't distant to me, I went to Sunday school and church youth groups, but it just wasn't something that I thought someone like me would do."

The lifelong Manchester United fan and Star Trek enthusiast moves to the parish of Porthkerry and Rhose

from Llantwit Major, where she was team vicar for five years. Prior to that she was curate at Gabalfa for seven years, and before that she was curate at Aberavon for three years.

When Melanie isn't wearing her dog collar, she might well be wearing her Star Trek outfit as she attends conventions around the country with her husband Darren (44), a university lecturer and their two daughters Hannah (12), and Naomi (eight).

Melanie is now looking forward to getting to know her new parishioners: "My main plan is to get to know our new church family and to work out the way for-

ward together. I am not coming here with any preconceived ideas of what I am going to do – we will work it out together."

She will serve at St Curig's Church in Porthkerry and St Peter's in Rhose.

Melanie will also work closely with Archdeacon Peggy Jackson, priest in charge of the neighbouring parish of Penmark with Llanfarcian and Llantrithyd in a cluster arrangement.

This follows recommendations from the Church in Wales review, with the two parishes now sharing and rationalising resources for their mutual benefit.

NEWS IN AND OUT OF CLASS FROM YSGOL GYMRAEG DEWI SANT



Fun and games on the school's sports day as the sun shines

YSGOL Dewi Sant held its second sports day recently on the sports field and, thankfully, this year the sun was shining!

The pupils in nursery, reception and year-1 were all placed in their houses and wore red, blue, green and yellow in order to identify the teams.

All of the races were fiercely competitive, as the pupils were keen to show off their skills in running competitions, bouncing races, obstacle races and the finale of a relay race with water.

During a break, all of the pupils were rewarded with ice pops and cold drinks.

The event in Llantwit Major was very well supported by parents and grandparents, who enjoyed the sunshine and cheered everyone on.

RHIAN SAMUEL



Looking back on exciting times



AS the school reaches the end of only its second year, the children and staff at Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant have been looking back at all of the exciting activities that have been going on.

We watched the eggs hatch in the incubator and enjoyed looking after the chicks. We grew vegetables in the garden to cook with and we welcomed a visit from some friendly owls on our wildlife day.

The PTA organised a sponsored circuits day where we kept fit by running around an obstacle course all day.

We made dens in the outdoors to provide shade from the sun, before making natural crowns from the twigs, leaves and moss that we collected.

Since the weather has been so warm recently, we decided to treat ourselves by making fruity lollies to help cool us off. Last week, the nursery class took their teddy bears for a picnic, where we sang songs and played games. So much fun!

We're looking forward to coming back in September after a well-deserved break! Places are now available for nursery places at the Llantwit Major school.

RS



SCHOOL CHARITY DAY RAISES 'INCREDIBLE' £1,265 FOR THE LATCH CHILDREN'S CHARITY



The school in good voice.



The sellers get busy.

ST CYRES school recently held its annual charity fundraising day after the final lesson of the day.

The whole school got together and worked as a team for LATCH.

The atmosphere in the yard was electric, as dozens of tables were set up selling a range of items and refreshments.

Some pupils held quizzes they had designed and there were fashion stalls with an assortment of clothing, jewellery and face-painting.

Inside the gym, year-9 pupils organised a dodgeball event and teams were encouraged to sign up for a small fee. Shaquille Coles of year-7 won the 'keepy-uppie' event with a score of over 300!

Luckily, the weather was perfect and the 'Soak the Teacher' area proved one of the most popular attractions, as pupils were able to have fun with some of their favourite teachers who braved the icy water and sponges aimed at their heads!

Alexis Richards in year-10 had a great idea to use the charity day as an opportunity to de-clutter her bedroom and raffled a large collection of cuddly toys, together with friends selling cakes, which altogether

raised over £40. Pupil donations for the treat of wearing non-uniform clothes for the day were collected in the morning and many pupils visibly demonstrated their support for LATCH by wearing the colour purple – while a few pupils struggled in the heat by wearing furry animal onesies!

This alone raised over £500; but following all of the activities, pupils increased the grand total to an incredible £1,265.80.

The whole event was filmed for St Cyres TV and an edited version can be watched via the school website www.stcyres.org, by clicking on the SCTV link.

LATCH was voted for by pupils as this year's charity from a list of 10 local charities.

Signing choir

ON July 10, the signing choir from St Cyres School performed at the ASDA store in Cardiff Bay.

Years 7, 8 and 9 and everyone practised hard to perfect three songs. Thanks to the generosity of shoppers visiting the store, we were able to raise £104 for the charity Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. This money will now be used to train a puppy, and we will be regularly updated on its progress. **SB**

ART ON THE STATION...



Art at the Travellers cafe/gallery

VOGA (Vale of Glamorgan Artists) group is back with a new exhibition, 'Splash' at the Travellers in Mind cafe/gallery, Barry Railway station.

The exhibition is open on weekday mornings only, until September 13.



Bracken and Bronte lead group ramble through Cosmeston

SEVEN Penarth and District Ramblers joined Joy, Bracken and Bronte at Cosmeston in very warm sunshine – with only a hint of a breeze – to enjoy an evening ramble that took in the delights of the country park.

The area was once medieval farmland but because underlying natural springs kept the land wet and boggy, growing crops was not easy. Between the 1890s and 1970, Cosmeston was a commercial limestone quarry serving the concrete factory where the Schooner stands; but the area constantly had to be pumped dry and following the factory closure and the pub being built, the pumping stopped.

The quarry was allowed to fill with water and the park was developed, which is now enjoyed by locals and visitors.

Leaving the main car park, the group walked past the thatched buildings of the medieval village, discovered when the park was being excavated, and crossing Mile Road entered a field where the ruins of the old columbarium or dovecote stand, which is very interesting because of its ruined state, the nesting boxes on the inside can be clearly seen.

Enjoying the slight breeze, the group had glorious views across farmland down towards Barry before dropping downhill, crossing the wooden footbridge over the Sully Brook to make their way onto a path at the rear of Cogan Wood, where the shade was appreciated.

Exiting into a valley, they passed the dipping pond and entered one of the huge enclosed grass and flower meadows where the temperature suddenly became very humid before re-crossing

Mile Road into a second enclosed meadow.

Exiting through a gate, they chatted to two female horse riders out enjoying the balmy weather, before the group entered cool woodland.

They reached a bench by the rungs where scripted shapes are carved into wooden posts, which form letters, or have particular meanings that act as an alphabet to translate messages. Continuing on, they reached the old bearded man carved out of a tree trunk, before crossing the top quarry and taking the main pathway back through Cogan Wood to re-emerge in a meadow and return to the car park.

On July 27, meet at 9am at the Barry Waterfront for a nine-mile easy/moderate walk at Merthyr Mawr and Newton; contact Val on 01446 734925.

On August 1, the evening ramble will leave Penarth cliff top car park at 7pm for a four-mile easy/moderate walk taking in Cosmeston and the disused railway line; contact Ann on 029 2040 7319.

Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

NEARLY NEW SALE

THERE will be a sale of ladies' nearly new clothes in the Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, on July 31, from 2pm until 3.30pm; admission 50p. All proceeds to charity.

SPOOKY TALES... PHANTOMS THAT WANDER RUINED ISLAND HOSPITAL

THE limestone island of Flat Holm, (or Ynys Echni in Welsh), lies in the Bristol Channel, around four miles from Lavernock Point in the Vale of Glamorgan.

It is classed as the most southerly point of Wales and is steeped in historical artifacts.

Flat Holm became a fortified island in 1869, after a visit from Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Batteries and stone barracks (to sleep up to 50 men) were erected to protect Bristol and Cardiff from the French Navy.

Flat Holm played its own unique part during World War Two, when 350 soldiers from the Royal Artillery were stationed on the island. To accommodate them, a radar station was built, and Flat Holm became an armed island for defence against the enemy with four small guns, searchlights and two bofor guns.

The separate defences included Castle Rock Battery, Farm House Battery, Well Battery and Lighthouse Battery, which ran from the northern to southern points of the island for protection.

The station at the heart of the island became part of the fixed defences, and was protected by shipping convoys between the island itself, Barry and Cardiff.

After the war, the works became redundant and were left to nature, although the helipad still remains at the island's core.

Also on the island are the remains of the Cholera Hospital, built in 1883, after three seamen from the steamship *Rishunglys* were abandoned on the island, because they were thought to have contracted cholera. Unfortunately, one of them later died.

They were given a canvas tent for shelter, a dubious means of accommodation on such an open and vulnerable island, prone to extreme weather and high winds.

The residents were outraged by this 'invasion', and lobbied Cardiff Council for compensation. They claimed that the presence of disease damaged their livelihoods and deterred people from visiting the island.

In 1896, the Marquis of Bute, who owned the island, agreed to lease the remaining land to Cardiff Corporation for £50 a year. They proceeded to build a solid isolation unit on the land unoccupied by the lighthouse and military, to keep this disease at bay.

It contained two six-bed wards and a nurse's room, so that care could be given to victims.

In 1893, three more sailors were

extradited to the isolation hospital on the island. They were from the *SS Blue Jacket*, a ship from Marseilles, and were named as Thomas Smith, an engineer, Robert Doran, and PJ Morris, who incidentally recovered.

The last person to die in the hospital was a victim of the bubonic plague, and was cremated and buried on the island in the late 19th Century.

The Grade II listed Victorian hospital, as well as the laundry block, closed in 1935. They remain derelict and on the Buildings at Risk Register to this day.

The eerie sight of a long-forgotten sailor seems to roam the cliffs of the island as if in search of his lost ship. Where could this sailor have come from, and why would he want to remain in an area far beyond his superficial world?

The creepy corridor of the ruined hospital seems to echo the footsteps of a deceased person, yet no physical body is performing these reverberations. Could the people of yesteryear be trying to urgently remind the living of the perils of disease?

The spectral image of a seemingly distressed nurse wearing an old fashioned uniform and headdress, seems to wander through the ruined walls of the old hospital.

Could this ghostly being be forlorn because her place of work is no longer in use, or just a restless soul vying to be remembered?

Chilling shouts for help have been heard from the raging sea at the dead of night, yet no physical person is ever seen in danger. Could the people from a bygone era be unknowingly causing panic amongst the living who mistakenly believe that somebody is drowning at such an untimely hour?

The phantom sight of a distinguished looking man has been witnessed patrolling around the Canon and Moncrieff Pit near the lighthouse.

Strange lights have also been seen here, and the chilling feeling of being watched by unseen eyes.

Could this gentleman be Thomas Barrett, the Master Gunner, who was stationed on the island to keep military equipment in working order in 1880s, or just another trick of the imagination?

Fact or fiction? Only you can decide...

HAYLEY WILLIAMS

hayley.williams550@yahoo.com

• I would like to thank Mr W E Dunn for his help with research to enhance my writing on such a spectacular island.

All the fun of the country fair



by GLYN EVANS

FONMON CASTLE held a country fair recently and people were able to sample some of the wonderful produce from rural areas and meet members of the farming community.



Man is jailed for dodging council tax

A CARDIFF man was arrested and taken to prison for 13 days, after repeatedly refusing to pay his Vale Council tax.

Peter Evans, of Havannah Street, Butetown, who had previously owned a property on Windsor Road, Penarth, had received a suspended sentence for culpable neglect and wilful refusal to pay a total of £1,218.57 at Cardiff Magistrates Court on January 24, 2013.

Magistrates ordered Mr Evans to pay £20 each fortnight to the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

The Vale had the highest council tax collection rate in south Wales for the financial year 2012/13 at 97.6 per cent, an increase of 0.3 per cent on the previous year.

During the period April 1 2012 to March 31 2013, a total of 141 cases were considered serious enough to warrant committal action and the defaulters were summonsed to appear before magistrates.

Failure to attend resulted in a total of 101 arrest warrants issued by magistrates, of which 36 received custodial sentences.

A total of £210,000 was collected.

Colwinston cycle stop-over

COLWINSTON is one of three Welsh villages among 51 in the UK taking part in a historic event – to recognise the contribution made by returning soldiers from World War I.

The Thankful Villages Run is a nine-day charity ride, taking place between July 27 and August 4, to present each community with a slate plaque, to commemorate those fortunate enough to return home in 1918.

This Saturday, Dougie

Bancroft and Medwyn Parry – the two motorcyclists behind the charity ride – will be visiting Colwinston.

As well as recognising the debt paid by the young men who returned from the Great War, the Thankful Villages Run aims to raise £51,000 in aid of the Royal British Legion.

The two men will visit every village to present residents, who include descendants of those who survived the Great War, with a commemorative slate plaque and certificate.

Full details of the route can be found at: <http://www.thankfulvillagesrun.com/schedule.php>.

barry-today.co.uk
cowbridge-today.co.uk
llantwit-major-today.co.uk
porthcawl-today.co.uk
bridgend-today.co.uk

The GEM

News, Sport, Letters,
Features, What's On,
Jobs, Motors....

A clean sweep for the enchanting village of Gileston!

THE Vale of Glamorgan Best Kept Village competition is 60 years old this year, and after a busy couple of weeks of judging, the winners were announced at a special awards evening in Ystradowen Village Hall.

There were whoops of delight as the chief judge announced that Gileston had swept to victory.

Mrs Rosamund Davies said: "Gileston is a most enchanting village which gives you a lovely welcome with the signposts being underplanted with roses at both ends of the village. You immediately felt you wanted to explore further."

The second prize went to Llanmaes, third prize went to Wenvoe, and fourth prize to Pendoylan.

Gileston also won the prize for their Diamond Jubilee entry, which features four crowns for four seasons.

Wenvoe and

Gileston both received prizes for the special village feature each had entered. Wenvoe is developing a Welsh orchard with a specialist herb garden, using the types of herbs that were used by the physicians of Myddfai.

Gileston has decorated two derelict buildings with flowers, to add to the beauty of the centre of the village.

The committee chairman, Irena Wasilewska, stressed the debt of gratitude that is owed to sponsors over the years.

She thanked current sponsors – Vale of Glamorgan Council, community and town councils, Cowbridge Compost, LGA Birkett, AG Adams, The National Trust at Dyffryn Gardens, and Ffos Las Racecourse.

She also thanked the supporters who regularly help with the awards evening, and those who donated raffle prizes, including a gift from Leekes.



First prize – Gileston – villagers with the BKV Cup.



Second prize – Llanmaes, Jackie Simpson.



Third prize – Wenvoe, Phil Morant.



Fourth prize – Pendoylan, Judith Roberts.

Arctic Star update

THE Bridgend MP, Madeleine Moon, has warned that next-of-kin applications for the Arctic Star will not be processed until September.

Mrs Moon said she was informed of the September processing date in a reply to a parliamentary question.

A constituent had approached her about the time it would take for applications to be processed. The Arctic Star has been issued in recognition of service on the Arctic convoys during World War Two.

The MP pointed out: "Quite rightly, applications from surviving veterans are being prioritised. The Ministry of Defence aims to process these applications within two months. Next of kin will start being processed in September, so if your application falls into this category, it will be several months before you hear anything."

Details of how to apply for the medal are available through this link: http://www.veterans-uk.info/arctic_star_index.htm, or by calling the MoD medal office on 08457 800 900.



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[illegible]

Classes well supported at Llancarfan Show

AFTER a one-year break and a few months of planning, the 2013 Llancarfan village show was staged on July 13 in Llancarfan Village Hall, St Cadoc's church, a marquee erected behind the hall, and four smaller gazebos.

Two of the gazebos were used to promote the Llancarfan Community Cinema run by Jim Barratt which has just finished its first successful season, another housed the Llancarfan Society plant stall run by Kay and Lucy Brain, and the remaining gazebo was used to provide fun and games for the younger visitors which was organised and run by Jane Williams.

Unfortunately, the number of entries in the fruit and vegetable classes was down on the previous show in 2011, but this was due to the very poor weather experienced at the start of the year, with the growing season slipping a good six weeks.

However, despite this, most other classes were well supported and by 10:30am all entries were in their places around the show site, awaiting the judges' decisions.

The panel of judges patiently examined and/or tasted all the entries and winners and runners-up in each of the classes were decided.

Prior to the show opening to the public, the judges and stewards were treated to an excellent lunch in the village hall which had been prepared by Melinda Thomas and her mum Sandra who made the most wonderfully light coffee cake.

With the fantastic weather, many residents from the village and surrounding areas attended and enjoyed the village event.

Alun Cairns, MP for the Vale, once again attended and together with Jim Barratt, the vice-chair of the Llancarfan Society, presented the cups to the overall winners.

The village show, again was a huge success and this would not have been possible without the chair of show Sue Taylor and the show committee, but special thanks must go to Anne Ferris the show secretary for the meticulous planning and organisation who was presented with a beautiful bunch of flowers by Alun Cairns, in recognition of her outstanding effort.

Roll on next year's show!

LIST OF WINNERS

1 Rose: Gary Osborn; 3 Roses: Mike Crosta; Orchid: Diana Atkin; Mixed Foliage: Joann Quelch; Mixed Flowers: Fran Winterbottom; pp Flowering: Kay Gay; Succulents/Cacti: Jo Ford; Herbs: Jo Ford; Sweet Peas: Alison Hannaby; Arr. Pot Luck: Angie Evans; Arr. Welcome to World: Audrey Baldwin; Arr. Waste Not Want Not: Melinda Thomas; Arr. My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding: Melinda Thomas; Arr. Get Me To The Church On Time: Sheelagh Lewis; Soft Fruits: Kay Brain; Any Other Fruit: Ann Ferris; Rhubarb: Kay Gay; Courgettes: Nicola Gibson; Beetroot: Sally Mills; Lettuce: Ann Ferris; Savoury Flan: Jan Crosta; Raspberry Bakewell: Kay Gay; Victoria Sponge: Kay Gay; Apple Tart: Kay Gay; Cup Cakes: Kay Gay; Loaf of Bread: Mrs CM Merrett; Welsh Cakes: Harriet Kemp; Sausage Rolls: Jan Crosta; Bara Brith: Michelle Lewis; Men, Any Cake: Jim Barratt; Jar of Marmalade: Sarah Angel; Jar of Chutney: Kay Brain; Handicraft - model: Derek Porter; Knitting: Sandra Marsh; Embroidery: Jean Jenkins; Painting Still Life: Albert Walker; Painting Seasons: Mrs CM Merrett; Painting Abstract: Mrs CM Merrett; Greeting Card: Mary Gammon; Photo British Country: Mrs CM Merrett; Photo Bridge: Graham Brain; Photo Glorious Oze: Sue Taylor; Garden in Box under-8: Arianne Barratt; Garden in Box over-9: Dylan Barratt; Arr. Man in Moon 90: Ruth Kell; Vegetable Animal: Jack Taylor; Art, Courage 4 - 6: Isabelle Spencer; Art, Respect 7 - 9: Evie Weir; Art, Courage/Respect 10 - 14: Megan Haskell; Poem Respect u-9: David Heselton; Poem Courage/Respect 100: Jessica Taylor; Cup Cakes: Lowri Owen; Photo Village: Megan Haskell.

TROPHY WINNERS:

Junior Cup, most points in competition - Megan Haskell.

The Hedley S Gay Cup, best Junior entry - Daniel Heselton.

Michael Angelo Award, best painting Junior - Megan Haskell.

Adult Cup, most points in competition - Kay Gay.

Frank Taylor Cup, best entry in Craft section - Sandra Marsh.

Richard Ferris Salver, best entry in Vegetable section - Sally Mills.

Alan Taylor Trophy, best entry in Flower section - Fran Winterbottom.

RHS Banksian Medal, best entry Flower and Vegetable section - Fran Winterbottom.

Baking and Preserves section Best Entry - Kay Gay.



TEA DANCE CHEQUE FOR MARIE CURIE HOSPICE



Arctic Star applications

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A constituent had approached her about the time it would take for applications to be processed. The Arctic Star has been issued in recognition of service on the Arctic convoys during World War Two.

The MP pointed out: "Quite rightly,

applications from surviving veterans are being prioritised. The Ministry of Defence aims to process these applications within two months. Next of kin will start being processed in September, so if your application falls into this category, it will be several months before you hear anything."

Details of how to apply for the medal are available through this link: http://www.veterans-uk.info/arctic_star_index.htm, or by calling the MoD medal office on 08457 800 900.

Members of the Penarth Tea Dance Association attended a party at the Paget Rooms during Penarth Festival where cakes were enjoyed, thanks to Tesco Express Penarth.

During the afternoon, a cheque was presented to a representative from Marie Curie hospice in Penarth in support of their good work.

FAMILY EVENT GETS YOUNGSTERS TACKLING A VARIETY OF SPORTS

Pictures by
GLYN EVANS

OTHERS ARE AVAILABLE
FROM THIS EVENT.

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by contacting:

e-mail ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 07791 228684.

Visit our studio in the Wool Barn,
Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

RECENTLY, Margam Park played host to the margam 'Mini Burn' – an event which combines running, kayaking and cycling.

The mini burn is put together with families in mind, but nevertheless it involved around two hours of effort to complete the course.

The burn series also operates longer and tougher races for adults of differing degrees of expertise.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE
www.burnseries.co.uk



PENCOED COMPREHENSIVE SCORES A HIT WITH ITS MUSICAL 'THE WIZ'



PHOTOGRAPHS by
IAN DIXON

FOLLOWING enviable exam results talented pupils of Pencoed Comprehensive capped a remarkable year with stunning performances of *The Wiz*, over four very hot evenings last week.

Kay Smith, the head of drama and performing arts, said: "This year, I chose *The Wiz* because it is a really fun and funky version of the traditional *Wizard of Oz* with fabulous opportunities for our talented actors to perform a variety of musical numbers, including a lively mixture of rock, gospel and soul".

Such is the talent pool at the school, several of the main roles were double cast over the four packed-out performances to give as many students as possible the chance to shine.

In the opening scene on a tumble-down farm in Kansas, Dorothy (Cherish Bevan sharing the role with emerging new talent, Ellie Barham) is portrayed as a typical, modern teenager rebelling against the laundry chores set for her by her Aunt Em (played by Dani Hopkins and Olivia Bruford).

Dorothy's tantrum is soon forgotten when a severe tornado strikes the farm. Dorothy is deposited in a very Oz-like city populated by Munchkins (one of whom surely bore more than a passing resemblance to Aunt Em).

Dorothy, desperate to find her way home, meets up with the Good Witch, Addaperle (Sophie Bees and Meg Mattravers), who, after listening to Dorothy's plight, provides her with magic silver slippers and sets her off down the Yellow

Brick Road towards the Emerald City, where her wish might just be granted.

On her long journey, Dorothy first encounters a very loose limbed and gloriously made up Scarecrow (brilliantly played by Tom Pound).

The Scarecrow decides to join up with Dorothy and they set off again for the Emerald City – helped on the way by a musical group of roadworkers dressed in hi-vis yellow, whose industry and artistry was something to behold!

Soon they encounter a very uptight Tin Man (another triumph of casting in Jevan Cannon) who Dorothy helps loosen up with a few judicious squirts of oil to the accompaniment of the Teeny Tappers' tap dance routine.

On hearing of Dorothy's and the Scarecrow's hopes for the Emerald City, he joins them and the trio set off again, with the Scarecrow shedding copious quantities of straw across the stage!

They pick up yet another companion, a 'Mean Ole Lion' (ferociously played by Zoe Morgan) who is soon revealed to be more of a scaredy-cat. Further along the road, the Lion has to be rescued by a Mice Squad.

At long last, however, the weary travellers arrive safely at the Emerald City.

They meet with the resident Wizard, who agrees to grant all of their wishes, with just one condition – they have to despatch Evillene, the Wicked Witch of the West. The four friends agree but soon fall foul of Evillene's protection squad, the Funky Monkeys, whose menace is only surpassed by their expert dancing.

Georgia Griffiths absolutely revels in the role of Evillene – her sweeping velvet costume and much arm waving being very reminiscent of Kate Bush's Cathy.

In a fit of anger, Dorothy douses the unwashed Evillene with a bucket of water which causes her immediate demise.

Confronted with their triumph, The Wiz successfully convinces the Scarecrow that he will get a brain by eating from a box of All Bran (to which he has scribbled in an additional letter 'i' to make it 'All Brain'). The Tin Man and the Lion also gain their respective heart and courage through similar magical ruses, but The Wiz has to admit to Dorothy that he doesn't know how to get her home to Kansas. All is not lost, however, with the reappearance of the Good Witches Addaperle and Glinda (Leah Lent and Gemma Moloney) who inform Dorothy that she merely has to click the heels of her silver slippers together three times to return home, where she is reunited with the now featherless Aunt Em.

As always, Rhian Jenkins, head of music, worked tirelessly on all the music and led the excellent band during all four performances.

Huge credit also goes to the many behind the scenes supporters, who were responsible for the stage lighting, sound, stage art, scene changing and, of course, the extravagance of costumes.

Most of all, though, the standing ovations at the end of each of the four performances were a fitting tribute and reward for the hours and hours of preparation and rehearsals by the talented kids and dedicated staff at Pencoed

Comprehensive School.

Norman Lloyd Cast

Aunt Em – Olivia Bruford Yr 11 / Dani Hopkins Yr 13, Uncle Henry – Harry Bruford, Dorothy – Ellie Barham Yr 12 / Cherish Bevan Yr 12, Scarecrow – Tom Pound Yr 10, Tin Man – Jevan Cannon Yr 12, Lion – Zoe Morgan Yr 11, The Wiz – Ben Warman Yr 12, Evillene – Georgia Griffiths Yr 13, Addaperle – Sophie Bees Yr 13/ Megan Mattravers Yr 13, Glinda – Leah Lent Yr 11/ Gemma Moloney Yr 11, Crows – Charlotte Jones Yr 9 / Ellie Taylor Yr 11 / Rhian Price Yr 12 / Dani Hopkins Yr 13 and Olivia Bruford Yr 11, Lord High Underling – Jevan King Yr 7, Gatekeeper – Jack Cotterall Yr 9, First Mouse – Lana Parsons Yr 9, Second Mouse – Josh East Yr 8, Evillene's Cronies – Katrina Yates Yr 10/Gabrielle David Yr 8/Rosie Pope Yr 7.

Dancers – Maya Gore Yr 8, Ellie Jones Yr 9, Nathan King Yr 9, Sophie Bamford Yr 10, Leah Lent Yr 11, Sian Thomas Yr 11, Caitlin Davies Yr 12, Charlotte Costelow Yr 9, Leila Mathews Yr 7, Megan Lewis Yr 7, Holly Tuck Yr 7, Anya Evans Yr 7, Cerys Johnson Yr 7, Gemma Moloney Yr 11, Alice Robson Yr 7, Luci Owen Yr 7, Jade Evans Yr 7, Georgia Griffiths Yr 13, Ellie Barham Yr 12, Cherish Bevan Yr 12, Charlotte Morgan Yr 10, Jevan King Yr 7, Freya Harding Yr 8.

Chorus – Yr 7 – Jevan King, Rosie Pope, Leila Mathews, Megan Lewis, Holly Tuck, Anya Evans, Annalise Williams, Cerys Johnson, Alice Robson, Isabella Bray, Kali Morgan, Kerian

Jenkins, Jade Smith, Luci Owen, Jade Evans, Bethan Widdett, Ella Feist, Caitlin Davies, Brooke Silver, Georgia Lynn, Lucy Coles, Mika Jones, Megan Butch, Lauren Woodward, Georgia Lloyd, Lauren Woodward.

Yr 8 – Gabrielle David, Maya Gore, Rachel Lane, Josh East, Ellis Brown, Oliver Bontempo, Freya Harding, Ceri Lewis, Ben Clarke, Hannah Martin, Molly Owen, Cerys O'Connor, Jenna Dyckoff, JamesWeeks.

Yr 9 – Lana Parsons, Georgina Barham, Natalie Richards, Hannah Sawyer, Elenie Kenward, Nathan King, Ellie Jones, Jack Cotterall, Charlotte Jones, Rebekah Davies, Charlotte Costelow.

Yr 10 – Sophie Bamford, Thomas Pound, Charlotte Morgan, Carys Rees, Bethan Blamey, Jodie Gall, Katrina Yates.

Yr 11 – Olivia Bruford, Lily May Evans, Leah Lent, Gemma Moloney, Sian Thomas, Ellie Taylor.

Yr 12 – Cherish Bevan, Ellie Barham, Ben Warman, Rhian Price, Caitlin Davies.

Yr 13 – Sophie Bees, Megan Mattravers, Georgia Griffiths, Dani Hopkins.

Production Team

Director – Mrs Kay Smith, Assistant Director – Megan Mattravers, Musical Director – Mrs Rhian Jenkins, Assistant Musical Directors – Olivia Bruford, Choreographers – Mrs Alex Hewitt and Mrs Nikki Perkins, Assistant Choreographers – Georgia Griffiths, Leah Lent, Sian Thomas, Technical Manager and Lighting Design – Gareth Rodgers, Sound – Adrian

Bamford.

Stage Management – Rebecca Morgan, Aaron Williams, Mrs Alex Hewitt, Mrs Shivaun McGuckin, Mrs Danielle Smith, Meg Mattravers, Sophie Bees.

Crew – Kielan Yates, Zak Rossaye, Jamie Powell, Rhys Causon, Zack Franks. Follow Spot Operator – Kielan Yates.

Tutors/Chaperones in Dan-Y-Coed – Kay Smith, Alex Milton, Rhian Jenkins, Stuart Pownall. Programme and Poster – Kay Smith and '4' Colour Printers. Production T-shirts – Top Dog Printers.

Costumes – Parents, Pupils "FOOTLIGHTS" and Drama Department. Costume Mistresses – Meg Mattravers, Sophie Bees, Rhian Price.

Make-up and Hair – Mrs Danielle Smith, Georgia Griffiths, Olivia Bruford. Sound and Lighting Hire – Stage Lighting and Sound Services. Set Design – Mr Julian Milton, Kay Smith. Set Painting by Kay Smith, Sophie Bees, Cherish Bevan. Set construction – Mr Nigel Keeping. Props – Tom Pound, Zoe Morgan.

Backstage team – Mrs Nikki Perkins, Mrs Shivaun McGuckin, Mrs Delyth Landy, Mrs Danielle Smith, Mr Stuart Pownall. Front of house manager – Kay Smith, Linda Harwood.

Front of house ushers – Mrs Melanie Bruford, Mrs Lynda Mattravers. Box office – Kay Smith, Alex Hewitt, Chris. Publicity and promotions – Zoe Morgan. Publicity photos – Ian Dixon, Stuart Pownall, Tom Pound.

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE LOCAL NEWS

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Brackla Community Centre

THE community chorus, founded in the early 1990s, recently held its annual summer concert in the centre.

The chorus encourages students from local schools to take part and it was nice to see that even though it was a sweltering evening, the centre was packed.

The chorus, under musical director Gillian Ridout, and accompanist Gareth Waite, opened the concert with three well known songs, beginning with C Porter's 'Another Op'nin' Another Show', then the classic song from the Alan Ladd movie 'Shenandoah' closing with 'He Ain't Heavy He's My Brother.'

Then the choir was surpassed by 9th year pupils from Archbishop Mc Grath RC.

Comprehensive School under musical director Glyn Price. The pupils had formed a jazz group called 'The Element'.

They rehearse twice a week after school.

They played a composition which they had written themselves titled 'Cool Control'.

Then came a wonderful soloist, Zuzana Reveyova, who displayed her versatility with her rendition from

the show *Les Miserables* Bloublil arrangement 'On My Own'.

Back on stage, the community chorus sang 'What a Wonderful World', and 'Anfonaf Angel', which Bryn Terfel had produced on a CD to raise money for the Welsh Air Ambulance.

The second half started with the jazz group 'The Element' who had the audience clapping.

Once again, there was a contrast in music with another brilliant soloist from the school, 15-year-old Emma Chumley, with her rendition of 'In His Eyes' from the musical *Jekyll and Hyde*.

She was joined by Zuzana Reveyova for a 'A Whole New World' from *Aladdin*.

The Brackla Community Chorus demonstrated its versatility with songs from *West Side Story*, its bass singer John Dunlop sang a solo part.

The chorus sang 'When the Saints go marching in' with the audience joining in the chorus and the evening was completed by everyone singing the Welsh National Anthem 'Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau.'

The chorus rehearses at the centre on Wednesday evenings from 7pm-9pm, school term times only. Visitors and new members welcome.

Garden party

DILYS MITCHELL, vice president, welcomed the members and visitor Janette Stewart to Aberkenfig and District Women's Institute while president Eunice Williams was sunning herself in north Wales!

'Happy Birthday' was sung to Irene Burgess, Maureen Pearce, Dilys Mitchell and Dorothy Kingston.

Dilys reported that the recent Glamorgan Federation 90th anniversary garden party was much enjoyed by members.

Lunch at Greenacres restaurant was followed by the bus ride to Margam Castle, where the members unfolded their chairs and settled down to enjoy the afternoon.

The branch discussed the Glamorgan Show in North Coney on July 27. Other forthcoming events are a trip to Fommon Castle in August, the autumn council meeting at the Princess Royal Theatre in Port Talbot on November 4, and the Christmas carol festival in St David's Hall, Cardiff on December 2.

As there was no speaker, Hilary Crocombe set up a fun quiz, which was won by Gillian Williams. A raffle was won by Janette and the competition for an item beginning with the letter 'A' was won



by Joanne Davies with an amber pyramid.

Pat Lewis, secretary, thanked Hilary for taking the minutes of the meeting.

The next meeting will be on September 11 when the speaker will be Mike Wilcock, manager of C & A Stores. The competition will be for an item beginning with the letter 'T'.

Aberkenfig and District WI meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 2pm in the Welfare Hall, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig. Further information from Pat Lewis on 01656 721933 or www.cobwebs.co.uk.

Society's celebration

THE Formation of Maesteg Amateur Operatic Society was inspired by a group of men of the Royal Observer Corps in 1943, dispelling the gloom and tedium of the blackout nights with musical entertainment.

A little later, an enthusiastic public meeting resulted in a committee and officials being appointed. Auditions were held and soon rehearsals were in full swing for the society's first production of the *Desert Song*.

This year, the society is celebrating its 70th anniversary and members are busy rehearsing, designing costumes and stage scenery for its forthcoming lavish platinum production of *Jekyll and Hyde* at Maesteg town hall between October 23-26.

Young star TYNRYHEOL pupil, Kai Lewis, was recently awarded Bridgend and District schools football player of the year.

He enjoys playing most sports, has represented his school's basketball and rugby teams, and has also represented his school at cross-country running.

Headteacher Martin Griffiths believes that he is a better rugby than soccer player, and if he keeps progressing, could one day play for Wales at scrum half!

Valley Ravens IF there are any youngsters aged six to nine wishing to play

rugby, Valley Ravens Bridgend District Champions team based at Nantymoel RFC is looking for recruits.

Training is on Wednesday evenings between 6pm and 7pm at Nantymoel, and begins on August 7.

There is no weekly fee and kit is supplied, apart from boots. For more information, telephone Andrew on 07712 627326 or Sian on 07989 513136.

There will be an informal get together in Nantymoel Park at 12 noon on Sunday, August 25, to meet other Raven team players.

Tondu Primary School

MRS Susan Pilcher, headteacher, congratulated the following children from each class who showed the most "good manners" through the summer term, and took them for a celebratory tea in Aberkenfig's 'Hotpot' café:

Afan: Loveday Lock and Isaac Reardon; Cynffig: Gracie-Mai Sage and Mollie Lloyd; Ewenni: Tristan Williams and Cerys Fisher; Garw: Leila Carlyon and Gracie Jones; Llynfi: Brandon Hearse and Sophie Tipper; Ogwr: Evie and Jorja Higgins; Rhondda: Mya-Paige Fahey and Benji Lock; Taf: Jessica Hanney and Logan Young; Usk: Lowri Chambers and Ben Pritchard-Davies.

Photo contest

THE kids summer photographic competition is open to children aged from six-16 and encourages them to take pictures in and around Maesteg, with the theme of promoting activities, scenery etc.

Prints of photographs must be 6" x 4" (150 x 100mm) and will be displayed in Maesteg Pharmacy, Talbot Street the organisers of the competition and judged by professional photographer Phil Davies.

There is a £1 entry for each picture, and all proceeds go to Y Diwlith the Welsh Nursery building, to help provide a new roof.



The winner of the competition will receive a digital camera, and the runner up £10 worth of digital prints

Two choirs THERE will be an evening of entertainment at Maesteg Celtic Club on July 27, starting at 7.15pm.

There will be two local choirs, Harmony and Bois Afan. Both have as their musical director and accompanist Wendy Murphy.

All money raised will go to the Garnwen Trust charity, with tickets £5, available from choir members or at the door.

Members enjoy a glass Carnival!

THE monthly meeting of the St Hilary WI took place on July 9, in its usual venue of the village hall.

The guest speaker was Mrs Pam Mills with a talk entitled 'Carnival Glass'. She has been a collector for over 20 years and has a prestigious collection.

As there is no meeting in August, it was agreed that those who could make it would meet or lunch at The Fox and Hounds in Llancarfan, and then proceed to the church to view the wall paintings that have been discovered there.

A meeting will be held on September 10 at 7pm in the village hall.

SD

'Cautious welcome' for parking charges

TWO regional AMs, Suzy Davies and Byron Davies, have cautiously welcomed changes to proposals to charge for parking along the seafront in Porthcawl.

The Welsh Conservative regional AMs for south Wales west, wrote to BCBC, urging it to allow some free parking in the town and also to designate side streets as residents-only areas if the scheme was proceeded with.

Suzy Davies, Shadow minister for tourism, said that she was heartened the council was prepared to listen to reasonable arguments.

"I know that the scheme is going through cabinet this week and then has to go back out for formal public consultation. It seems, though, that they already prepared to commit to a free half hour along the seafront and also in the car park at the rear of John Street."

"When I met Porthcawl traders recently, this was the one thing that they called for above everything else - short term free parking for locals close to the shops."

"This will boost the town centre as it will enable people to pop in to make a couple of purchases without having to

pay expensive parking charges.

"I would prefer if they had decided to have a free first hour but this is a start. This ties in with attempts being made nationally to rejuvenate our high streets which are in a dire state."

Shadow regeneration minister, Byron Davies, said that residents living in the streets leading off the seafront had opposed the introduction of charges as they feared that traffic would be driven into their own streets as people tried to avoid paying.

"It was always obvious that you could not bring these charges in without trying to halt the flight from the seafront to the side streets. Bringing in 'Residents Only' parking areas should prevent this, although it will depend how rigorously they are enforced."

"I also welcome the decision to only charge for that length of the seafront as far as The Seabank Hotel. In my view, it was madness to extend it as far as Windsor Road which was their original intention. People will be able to continue parking for free along West Drive in the future."

Both the AMs said it was essential that the residents-only areas were in place before the pay and display parking scheme was implemented.

War memorial is realigned

(NOW TOWN'S HERO IS STAYING PUT)



ABOVE: Workmen begin to disassemble the monument.

Picture by MIKE WILCOCK



ABOVE: Back where it belongs – the memorial in place.

Report and picture above by TIM CHAPMAN

Police join forces with publicans

LOCAL publicans in Porthcawl have joined forces with Police – to make the town a safe place to visit this summer – by working together to help reduce violent crime and anti social behaviour.

Police warn that troublemakers will be identified by publicans and banned from all pubs, clubs, holiday parks and hotels in the Pubwatch initiative: "If someone is banned from one premises, this will apply to all members of Pubwatch."

Pubs are also asking customers to stop taking drinks outside.

Porthcawl neighbourhood PC Matthew Aitken explained: "The whole of Porthcawl is a Designated Public Place. A police officer or a PCSO has the power to confiscate and dispose of alcohol being

consumed in public areas within the town centre. If someone fails to comply with such a request, they will be liable to arrest and a potential fine of up to £500.

"During the summer months Porthcawl experiences a significant increase in population, as well as a large influx of day visitors to the town and surrounding areas to enjoy the beaches and other facilities.

"Because of the high numbers of people coming to Porthcawl, there is also an increase in anti-social behaviour, public order offences, assaults, auto-crime – especially at beach locations – and violent crime from the late night economy."

Police officers will increase visibility on patrol on a Friday and Saturday night in areas identified as potential hotspots.

ONE of Cowbridge's most iconic sights is its war memorial, complete with the statue of a uniformed soldier, his head bowed in dignified and solemn remembrance.

On Sunday, July 21, the statue was removed – briefly – from its position on top of the plinth outside the town hall, so that essential work could go ahead.

The problem was that the base stone of the memorial had moved out of alignment – something spotted by a member of the public some time ago.

How the base shifted remains a mystery.

The work of repositioning the plinth was undertaken by Mossfords Monumental Sculptors.

All the parts of the

memorial were dismantled and it was then reassembled – properly aligned. The work took four hours, from 8am until 12 noon.

The town council believes the memorial dates back until the early 1920s.

It pays tribute to local soldiers who gave their lives in the service of this country.

One Cowbridge resident, Jim Groves, mischievously went on Facebook, and claimed that due to financial constraints, the statue was being removed because it had been sold for £7,000 to "an unknown buyer, possibly American".

A number of people fell for Jim's practical joke, expressing outrage, but others saw it as light-hearted and confessed it had given them a chuckle.

Planning applications

Mrs and Mrs Bailey – Aran, 28 Arosfa Avenue, Porthcawl – Domestic extension.

Mr John-Paul Jones – The Elms, West End Avenue, Porthcawl – Construct five new dwellings and garage block, new access drive.

Miss J C Richards – 6 Brynmawr Place, Maesteg – Convert grassed area to a drive, remove front wall and drop kerb, erect new pillar and gates.

Mr and Mrs P Morgan – Side garden area, 77 West Road, Porthcawl – Approval of reserved matters app P/10/258/OUT, new detached dwelling.

GONE FISHING...

Disabled anglers cast out



The group of participants, including helpers and competitors, and cup presentation to winners.



ON Wednesday, June 19, members of the Bridgend and District Fishing for The Disabled were pleased to organise the first competition of the year, which was held at the Seven Oaks Fishery, at Ystradowen, near Cowbridge.

The winners of the event would receive the B Morgan Cup as a recognition of their success on the day, with the numbers and weight of fish caught to decide the overall result.

Conditions were sunny during the event, and a total of 24 children and adults took part representing Heronsbridge School, Bryn Castell School, Pencoed School and adults from the Valley Gateway Day Centre, Sarn, Bridgend.

With the numbers involved, 12 children and adults were chosen to start fishing under the supervision of a nominated helper to assist each angler.

The other group awaiting their fishing experience were entertained in a marquee nearby, with various carnival type activities; face painting masks, photographs and refreshments were provided.

At the conclusion of the event, it was pleasing to note that every child and adult member caught their maximum of two fish each, despite the warm weather.

The overall winners of the cup were Bryn Castell School, and each school winner had a medallion awarded.

Our special thanks to all helpers who gave assistance to make it a memorable day; the marquee staff; Stephanie Merchant for her face painting techniques; and Bridgend Rotary Club for the marquee provision.

Thanks also to James, the new owner of Seven

Oaks, for the use of the facilities and making us feel so welcome at the venue.

The Bridgend and District Fishing for The Disabled is a voluntary group who are always seeking new members to give what assistance they can in events such as the one described above.

Previous fishing experience is not necessary, and if anyone feels they can help, call Ralph Merchant on 01656 660683.

JD



ABOVE: The marquee had refreshments and face painting!

Catering chief's double serving of success...



Louise Kerton with some of the catering team from Maes Yr Haul Primary School in Broadlands, Bridgend.

CATERING team manager for Bridgend County Borough Council, Louise Kerton, has scooped a second award.

She beat her peers from across the UK to win the Local Authority Catering Association's Roger Davies award for outstanding achievement, at a ceremony in Birmingham.

It was a double helping of awards, as Louise recently won the Welsh outstanding achievement (management) accolade in the association's regional awards.

Louise manages nearly 400 catering staff across Bridgend county borough, who provide meals in primary, secondary and special schools – as well as in day centres and meals at home.

She was nominated for the awards by her team for the way she has led them and delivered an excellent service, despite economic uncertainty.

Louise began working for BCBC in 1999, as cook at Nottage Primary School, and became the catering team manager in 2009 – after working her way through the ranks.

She said: "I have the support of a

wonderfully committed management team and I am extremely proud of the service that we provide. School meals have changed so much since I first started and I am proud to say we have achieved the Welsh Government's 'Appetite for Life' food, drink and nutrient standards which will become legislative in primary schools in September 2013.

"I am only as good as my team. Catering is our business, but teamwork is our success," Louise added.

Congratulating Louise on her award, Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "Our catering staff throughout the county borough provide an extremely valuable service for people of all ages, from young children in schools to the vulnerable adults who receive the meals at home service."

"Having talented staff such as Louise leading the way has helped to deliver a high standard of nutritious, good quality food and I would like to pass on my congratulations to Louise for achieving both the Welsh award for outstanding achievement and now the national award."

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 Vale of Glamorgan Council
  Refuge Housing Association
  Newydd Housing Association
  United Wales
  Vale and Taff Housing Association


To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at **HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk** or apply in writing to:
Vale of Glamorgan Council
 Visible Services and Housing
 Civic Offices Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
 121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

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 • Central heating
 • Community alarm
 Rent £93.51 per week including alarm and water charges
 Not suitable for applicants with mobility issues

ARTHUR DAVIS COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference
 Suit for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets
 • One-bedroom flat
 • Ground floor
 • Double-glazing
 • Gas central heating
 • Gardens/parking
 Rent £108.77 per week including service charges

BUTLEE COURT, BARRY

H4U reference 1042031
 Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
 • Three-bedroom flat
 • Second floor
 • Central heating
 • Double glazing
 Rent £91.24 per week

CATHERINE MEAZEY, BARRY

H4U Reference 237756
 Suitable for a single person over 55
 • Studio apartment
 • Ground floor
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Community Alarm
 Rent £88.13 per week including water and alarm charges
 Suitable for applicants with low level mobility issues

CRESSWELL COURT, BARRY

H4U reference 206214
 Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
 • Three-bedroom house
 • Double glazing
 • Central heating
 • Gardens
 Rent £97.63 per week including water charges

DALE COURT, BARRY

H4U reference 206989
 Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
 • Three-bedroom house
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Gardens
 Rent £98.07 per week including water charges

DENBIGH COURT, PENARTH

H4U reference 988591
 Suit for a single person or couple over 55
 • One-bed bungalow
 • Double glazing
 • Central heating
 • Gardens
 Rent £95.34 per week

DUNLIN COURT, BARRY

H4U reference 998972
 Suit for a family meeting the max occupancy requirement - no pets
 • Two-bedroom flat
 • First floor
 • Double glazing
 • Gas central heating
 Rent £77.09 per week including service charges

FFORDO ELIN, BARRY (2)

H4U reference 985475
 Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
 • 2 x Three-bed houses
 • Gas central heating
 • Double glazing
 • Gardens/parking
 Rent £89.48 per week including service charges

GWYN JAMES COURT, PENARTH

H4U Reference 988524
 Suitable for a single person over 55 - no pets
 • Studio apartment
 • First floor (no lift)
 • Double-glazing
 • Gardens/parking
 • Scheme co-ordinator
 Rent £103.94 per week including heating, water and service charges

HANOVER COURT, BARRY

H4U reference 1080291
 Suitable for a single person or couple over 60 (55 with medical need)
 • One-bedroom flat
 • Ground floor
 • Double glazing
 • Central heating
 • Manager and alarm
 Rent £95.34 per week

HEOL Y LLONGAU, BARRY

H4U Reference 1105153
 Suitable for applicants over 40. Interviews will be carried out
 • One-bed first floor flat
 • Gas central heating
 • Double glazing
 • Parking
 Rent £74.62 per week including service charges
 Priority given to existing tenants wishing to downsize

HILL STREET, BARRY

H4U reference 211946
 Suit for a single person or couple over 55
 • One-bedroom flat
 • Ground floor
 • Double glazing
 • Central heating
 • Communal gardens
 Rent £86.44 per week including water charges
 Not suitable for applicants with mobility issues

IRVING PLACE, BARRY

H4U reference 213176
 Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
 • Two-bedroom flat
 • Ground floor
 • Double glazing
 • Central heating
 • Communal gardens
 Rent £82.93 per week including water charges

LAUGHARNE COURT, BARRY

H4U reference 214625
 Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
 • Three-bedroom house
 • Central heating
 • Double glazing
 • Gardens
 Rent £98.55 per week including water charges

NORTH WALK, BARRY

H4U reference 217952
 Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
 • Three-bedroom flat
 • Second floor
 • Double glazing
 • Central heating
 • Communal gardens
 Rent £89.16 per week including water charges

ST BARUCHS COURT, BARRY ISLAND

H4U Reference 963654
 Suitable for applicants over 55
 • Two-bedroom flat
 • Ground floor
 • Double-glazing
 • Gas central heating
 • Gardens/parking
 Rent £78.75 per week including service charges

NEW DEVELOPMENT AT MERTHYR STREET, BARRY

Newydd Housing Association announces the new development of 12 flats in Merthyr St, Barry and expressions of interest are invited from all current applicants of HOMES4U.

The high quality energy efficient properties will be available to rent during September 2013. This development will consist of:

1 x one bedroom flat and 3 x two bed flats (ground floor) Priority will be given to applicants with a priority on HOMES4U for mobility issues.

8 x two bedroom flats on 1st and 2nd floors (regret no lift)

Priority will be given to existing social housing tenants wishing to downsize who have an excellent tenancy history.

Interest will be considered from applicants with local work and, or life connections.

Newydd Housing Association is committed to providing a safe and sustainable environment and will be asking for references and carrying out interviews with prospective tenants to achieve the full potential for this new development.

**ST JAMES COURT, PENARTH**

H4U reference 244802
 Suit for a single person or couple over 55
 • One-bedroom flat
 • First floor
 • Double glazing
 • Central heating
 • Community alarm
 Rent £85.57 per week inc water and alarm charges

Are you a council tenant who has been affected by the bedroom tax?

Would you like to discuss the options available to you?

If so, call our Money Advice Line on

01446 709312 for constructive, impartial advice.

This number is not a bidding line for properties in this advert.

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes. When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference. All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness. Newydd is a charitable housing association.





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D65



Chris Davies



Eagle Road, St Athan
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D58



Trebeferad, Boverton
3 Bedrooms
72' Garden
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E44



Glebeland Place, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
Gas Central Heating
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£125,000

D64



Warlow Close, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
Well Presented Family Home
No Onward Chain

£149,950

D67



Fairfield Rise, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
No Onward Chain
View Today

£157,500

D67



Cambrian Avenue, Llantwit Major
3 Beds, 2 Recepts
Conservatory
Southerly Rear Garden

£165,950

D64



Cambrian Avenue, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
View to the Front Elevation
South Side location

£165,950

D68



Boverton Court, Llantwit Major
4 Bedrooms
Family Home
Garage

£198,500

E50



Flint Avenue, Llantwit Major
4 Bed Detached
Magnet Kitchen
Luxury Bathroom

£210,000

C71



Pantycelyn Place, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
Rear Dorma Conversion
Southerly Garden

£145,000

D64



Iltyd Avenue, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
Conservatory
Southerly Rear Garden

£159,950

C72



Byron Court, Llantwit Major
2 Bedrooms
1st Floor Retirement Flat
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C78

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Announcements

Helen said
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John
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Congratulations Danielle on all your achievements, all your hard work has paid off! We are so proud of you, love and kisses, Mum, Dad, Nan, Nicholas, Victoria & Nathan x

To our beautiful Auntie Dan, well done! Love you lots like jelly tots, Evan & Dylan xxx



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is looking for a **Graphic Designer/Typesetter** You must have experience with Apple computers, using Quark XPress and Adobe Photoshop. Please send CV/details to: lloydjones@tindlenews.co.uk

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Family Notices

ROBIN HARRHY

(Formerly of Llancarfan)

Passed away peacefully on July 15th at Harefield Hospital, Middlesex.

Much loved son of Leslie and the late Joan. Devoted husband of Sharon, dad to Emma and Steven, father-in-law to Barry and Nichola, also treasured grandpa to all his grandchildren. Also brother of Peter and Richard, brother-in-law of Sharon and Sue. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

COXON Nola

Peacefully on 13th July at Barry Hospital, aged 84 years, after a fight of 24 years against a stroke, Nola, loved wife of Arthur, mother of Jeremy and Amanda, Grandma to Jamie, Rhys, Conor, Daisy and Tegan, sister to Philip and Robin, mother-in-law to Jane and Tim, stepmother to Mark.

Funeral Service to be held at St. Peters Church, Dinas Powys, on Monday 29th July 2013 at 11.30am followed by a private service at the Cardiff and Glamorgan Memorial Park Crematorium, Port Road, Barry.

Family flowers only please, but donations in lieu of flowers, if desired, may be made to Penarth & District Street Support Group and sent directly to Mrs P. A. Evans, 86 Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys, CF64 4JU, or Ty Hafan and sent directly to Ty Hafan, Head Office, The Family Hospice For Young Lives, Hayes Road, Sully, CF64 5XX.

All enquiries to Green Willow Funerals, 21a Station Road, Dinas Powys, CF64 4DE (029) 2051 4627.

PHILIP SELBY "Clippo"

Peacefully on July 19th at Barry Community Hospital, Phil, well known for his time as a Council HGV driver, a Korean War Veteran and Merchant Seaman. Much loved husband of Brenda and loving dad to Mark and Greg. Cherished father-in-law of Susan and Satsuki, also an adored grandad of Jack, Alice and Joe. Phil will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.

Resting in the private chapel of The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service on Monday, 29th July at Coastlands Family Church, Tennyson Road, Colcot at 11.00am followed by interment at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home or if desired, donations can be made at the service to The Dogs Trust in memory of Phil. Enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service 01446 407962.

HASTINGS Cecil (Paddy)

Barbara, John and Danuta wish to thank all who attended Paddy's funeral and for the numerous cards and messages of sympathy they have received.

Special thanks to the Reverend Lance Clark who conducted the service in a personal and touching way, and also his wife Shirley who offered her support. To W. James and Sons, Funeral Directors and to the Staff at Chapel Surgery, St Athan and to the Doctors and Nurses on B2 Ward at Heath Hospital Cardiff for their compassion and support.

Finally our thanks to Leanne and staff at St Athan Golf Club for the marvellous catering they provided on the day.

EDGEcombe Richard Henry

Passed away peacefully in Milsom House Care Home on Tuesday, 16th July, 2013, after a full and loving life of 94 years.

He was a loving father, grandfather and great grandfather. He is now back with his beloved wife Joannie whom he sorely missed the last five years.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, Llantwit Major until the Funeral service on Monday 29th July in St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major at 2pm followed by interment at Boverton Cemetery.

Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home or donations may be made to Help4the Heroes c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only please).

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Who wants to build what, and where?

Mr Raymond Coutts - **55 Heol y Fro, Llantwit Major** - To extend current external porch to include a disabled toilet facility.

Roseann Samuel - **53 Plymouth Road, Penarth** - Completion of a dwelling house in accordance with planning permission 1990/00162/FUL.

Mr Lee Gillum - **30 Glastonbury Road, Sully** - Demolition of existing rear garage and conservatory. Erection of a single storey rear and side extension.

Robert Smith Ltd - **Land at Cogan Hill, Penarth** - Redevelopment of vacant site to provide 34 affordable residential units.

AS Lloyd and Son Limited - **31 Vale Business Park, Llandow** - Erection of a new factory building with two storey offices.

Mr Colin James - **The Old Police Lodge, Sutton Road, Llandow** - Conversion and extension of out-building for residential use.

Mr Dilip Patel - **7 Cannington Close, Sully** - Single storey utility and kitchen extensions.

Mr David Crouch - **16 Ash Lane, St Athan** - Two storey extension on end elevation.

Roger Thomas - **Land to the rear of The Three Golden Cups Public House, Southerndown** - Change of use of land to a campsite (for up to 50 pitches) from March 15-October 31 in any calendar year, including ancillary facilities and associated works.

Mr and Mrs Selley - **12 Maes y Coed, The Knap, Barry** - Proposed loft conversion and increase height of gable to rear elevation.

Mr Chris Watts - **6 Downs View, Aberthaw, Cowbridge** - Extension, demolishing a single storey brick and concrete built WC, pantry and out-house and replacing with a single storey pitch roof kitchen extension.

Miss H Maddy and Miss G McSweeney - **80 Porth y Castell, Barry** - Fell one mature Goat Willow (at 89 Westward Rise) and 16 Western Red Cedars alongside boundaries of rear garden.

Mr John Lindsay - **4 Tair Onen, Cowbridge** - Construction of wall to the rear of property wholly on land of the above property with lean-to log store (retrospective).

Mr Gareth Cummings - **6 Cwrt Pencoedtre, Barry** - First floor construction over existing garage to comprise a bedroom with en-suite bathroom. Existing garage is to be converted into a ground floor dining room with French doors to the rear.

Mr and Mrs Humphrey - **51 Clive Place, Penarth** - Repair, refurbishment and extension of the existing dwelling.

Mr Robert Howells - **Court Farm, St Mary Hill, Treos** - Replacement building.

Mr Steven Rickett - **45 Westbourne Road, Penarth** - Erection of a single storey orangery attached to the northern elevation at the rear.

Mr Paul Long - **24 Rectory Drive, St Athan** - Demolition of the existing garage, construction of proposed extension and associated external works.

Mr and Mrs Andrew and Jodie Barber - **Ger y Fro, 182A Port Road East, Barry** - Single storey living room extension.

Mr and Mrs A Morgan - **Land adjoining La Fleunie, Graig Penlllyn** - Construction of detached dwelling house (revision of design from approved plans 2008/01213/FUL).

Beechwood Court Limited - **Beechwood College, Hayes Road, Sully** - Erection of three temporary portable buildings for a period up to two years.

Mr Alan Hill - **The Coach House, Highfields, 14 Bradford Place, Penarth** - To replace seven existing

single glazed white timber vertical slider windows with seven new white timber windows, vertical sliders with argon-filled toughened glass.

Mr Simon Baston - **54 Westbourne Road, Penarth** - Double and single storey extensions to the side and rear.

Mr Lee Compton - **Meliden, Sunnycroft Lane, Dinas Powys** - Temporary siting of single storey static caravan to act as temporary residential accommodation for the owner/occupier until construction of new dwelling on site (planning ref 2010/00808/FUL).

E T Adams and Sons - **Darren Farm, Cowbridge** - Proposed concrete storage area.

Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council - **Town Hall, High Street, Cowbridge** - Replacement of the two arched council chamber windows on a like-for-like basis.

Mr Stephen Lucas - **80 Cae Canol, Penarth** - Single storey side extension to house to be a toilet/wet room and utility room.

Mr Justin Evans - **Ty Draw, St Andrews Major** - Proposed new farm building.

Mr John Zani - **Dow Corning, Cardiff Road, Barry** - Remove and replace tall tank in tank farm with taller storage tank.

Mr Dafydd Rhodri - **Rosedew Farm, Llantwit Major** - Agricultural building for additional grain storage, agricultural machines and general purpose storage; extension to existing, length 27m x width 6m height to eaves 4.5m, height to ridge 5.1m.

Mr Lee Ford - **Ty Coch Farm, St Brides Super Ely** - Application for variation of conditions 4 and 12 re: 2012/00450/FUL and amendment to position of garage.

Secretary of State for Defence - **MoD Superhanger, MoD St Athan** - Change of use of part of Superhanger from B1 and B2 to B8, use for an interim period between September 2013 to March 2017 inclusive.

Mr Vince Pugliese - **Unit 3, Herbert Terrace, Penarth** - Change of use from A1 to A3 (restaurant) and addition of first floor within existing building and addition of windows to street facade.

Ms Eley - **3 Southglade, Sully** - Conservatory to the rear elevation.

Mr Graham Norris - **1 Pwll y Min Crescent, Peterston Super Ely** - Partial demolition of existing disused chimney and rebuild to match.

M L Evans - **Brocton House, Llyswhorney** - Fell Sycamore. Ms Cheryl Nieves - **54 Elizabeth Avenue, Colcot, Barry** - Demolition of existing substandard outhouse and storage area. Proposed single storey extension with flat roof to form kitchen and family room.

Vale of Glamorgan Council Project Management Unit - **Disused railway line, Archer Place/Sully Terrace, Penarth** - Resurfacing of sections of existing walking and cycle path on the route of disused railway line and associated improvements.

Mr Dennis Troughton - **Spar Shop, 73 Stanwell Road, Penarth** - Retention of Spar fascia and sign above shopfront.

Mr Roy Hulin - **Tree between Wenvoe Library and 6 Wenvoe Close, Wenvoe** - Cut back large tree.

Mr David Thomas - **33 Druids Green, Cowbridge** - Front toilet.

Mr Huw Childs - **Village House, Colwinston** - Dismantle Irish Yew in front garden.

Mr Cliff Hayes - **Jenner Park Stadium, Barry Road, Barry** - Siting of a 20ft storage container for adaptive cycling equipment.

Mr Philip Bacon - **5 Milburn Close, Rhose** - Extension to first floor to create three bedrooms and bathroom.

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RIGHT:
This display was less about horses, and more about dalmations!

WHAT a lovely sunny day it turned out to be for the young people at Talygarn recently, when they performed their displays to around 360 friends, family and spectators.

The displays started with a mini-major jumping competition in which an older and a younger rider jumped a course of jumps.

The competition was won by Malissa Yates, 16, of Pontyclun and Olivia Murray, 11, from Pontypridd. It was followed by several vaulting displays including a performance by 101 Dalmations, The Lion King, Red Indians, and a canter performance by the A Squad.

The Musical Ride performed to a selection of ABBA songs and the day ended with a fast and fun display of gymkhana skills.

The Vaulters are a club based at Talygarn and money raised will go towards more catsuits for the squads and towards funding the cost of entering teams at the British Championships at Leighton Buzzard in September

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Roller skaters show their artistic side



Roller Freestyle.

THE Vale of Glamorgan Artistic Roller Skating Club held its second annual competition recently, at Llantwit Major Leisure Centre.

In the morning, the Federation of Artistic Roller Skating tests were held.

Kaitlin Daly took her elementary test and passed. Lara Goodwin

passed both elementary and preliminary tests. Lesley Fletcher passed her inter silver test.

It now means the club has four inter silver medallists as coaches, under head coach Sheila Davies.

Competitions were as follows: Barry Tyre Centre Trophy, for beginners, nine competitors. Maya Archampong came first, Evie Denbury second and Emily Eveleigh third.

Ben's Barber Shop Trophy, Charleigh Griffith was the winner out of 10 competing. In second was Medi Western and third Dee Louise Clarke.

Barratt's the Butcher's Trophy, winner Hannah John, second Charleigh Griffith, third Bethan Daly (out of 11 competitors).

George Morgan Memorial Trophy for duos, the winners were Kaitlin Daly and Phoebe

Escott. Second were Lara Goodwin and Hannah John, and third were Bethan Daly and Michael Vaughan.

Julia Davies Cup (beginners duos), first, Tayla Goodwin and Sian Nicholas, second Dee Louise Clarke and Maya Archampong, and third Emily Eveleigh and Mollie Griffith.

Tony Voddan Memorial Trophy for skaters grade 6 and above, the winner was

Kaitlin Daly, second was Lara Goodwin, and third was Phoebe Escott.

Vale of Glamorgan Skating Club Trophy, a solo event open to all with 14 competitors, the winner was Kaitlin Daly, who skated to 'Rocky', second was Lara Goodwin who skated to 'Doll on a Musical Box', and third was Michael Vaughan who was '007'. There were super costumes and lovely music.

The winner of the most improved skater of the year, winning the Julie Whittingham Plate, was Charlie Griffith; and a small token, because he makes us smile, was awarded to Byron Western.

Judges of the day were Tarnia Bowman and Julie Whittingham, who were presented with bouquets.

BRIAN LEE



Roller duos.



Roller solos.

Tim's weekend double

ABERTHIN trainer Tim Vaughan has been in cracking form of late and last weekend he saddled another two winners.

On Saturday at Market Rasen, his nine-year-old *Mighty Snazzy*, who was the oldest horse in the race, won the B Eyre & Son Ltd Ford Novices' Hurdle by six lengths at odds of 4-1, and 24 hours later at Newton Abbot, his ten-year-old *Chilbury Hill* took

the Richard Burston's Stag Party Weekend Chase, romping home 13 lengths ahead of *Escardo*.

The former was ridden by Michael Johnson and the latter by Michael Byrne.

TIM'S HORSES IN GOOD FORM

ON Sunday, at Stratford, his *Solaris Exhibition* under Aidan Coleman won the 3.20 at odds of 5-2, and just over an hour later, his *Sirhop De Menthe*, partnered

by **Brendon Powell**, ran out a ten lengths winner of the 4.20 at odds of 14-1!

Then on Monday, Tim had an across the card double with *Piment D'Estruval* at Newton Abbot and *Langley*, which won on the flat at Wolverhampton.

The former, who was returned at odds of 7-1, was ridden by Richard Johnson and the latter, partnered by Oisán Murphy, was a 9-2 shot.

NEW KARATE CLUB

A new karate club is coming to Cowbridge.

The club will be in both Y Bont Faen, linking closely with the Welsh school as an after school club, and in the Comprehensive, catering for all ages.

The two clubs will start in the second week of September. For more information, email e1ra8@hotmail.com.

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Disabilities group hands golf awards to children



Jane Hutt presents John Hasting with a certificate of appreciation for his tuition.

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt presented certificates at the end of a golfing course for children and adults with disabilities from Special Olympics Cardiff & Vale Golf Group.

The group, working in partnership with Golf Development Wales and Disability Sport Wales, held a 12-week golf tuition course for chil-

dren and adults with disabilities at St Andrews Major Golf Club, with tuition by golf professional John Hasting.

The group will continue to meet every Friday at the golf course, it is hoped to run further courses in the future.

During the evening, the group was also presented with an Insport certificate by Disability Sport Wales.

CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!

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Barry Town United invited to coach future soccer stars

THE Vale Council has demonstrated its "commitment to local football" by inviting Barry Town United Football Club to run the Vale of Glamorgan football centre of development.

A spokesperson explained that the move aims to increase the club's presence in the community and to provide opportunities for talented young players.

As well as providing a direct link with the community, the club has plans for a fully functioning training academy in the future, which is likely to be a requirement as they seek to gain promotion to the Welsh Premier League.

The present centre would be an ideal starting point for such an academy.

The Vale of Glamorgan football centre of development has operated for approximately 10 years, and has provided quality coaching for talented young footballers, both boys and girls.

It has previously been operated directly by the

council's sports development team. However, an internal review of the centre has shown that numbers have dropped and that there are now several commercial competitors offering similar opportunities across south Wales.

One of the main reasons for the reduction in numbers has been the lack of progression opportunities for talented players.

Coun Gwyn John, cabinet member for leisure, parks, culture and sport development, said: "It is vital that we raise the standards of football coaching available to young people in the Vale of Glamorgan and support the star players of the future."

"This agreement with Barry Town United Football Club also demonstrates our unflinching support of the club itself, following the FAW's devastating decision to deny the club full membership."

"We are confident that the Vale of Glamorgan football centre of development will thrive under the guidance of the club and we encourage young people in the Vale to get involved in local football."

VALE GOLF ACADEMY: Father and son team up!



A LOCAL golfer has shunned the life of a tournament professional - to follow in his father's footsteps and become a teaching pro at the Vale Resort Golf Academy, near Hensol in the Vale.

Matthew Coombs (22), who qualified last month with a degree in applied golf management from Birmingham University, joins father Clive as part of the four-strong coaching set-up at the Resort, which gives individual and group lessons to members and non-members of all ages from across south Wales.

The Junior Academy at the Vale has produced a number of young golfing stars in recent years, including current European Amateur Championship Cup winner and 2013 Open qualifier Rhys Pugh.

Matthew is looking forward to getting stuck into his new role as a full-time teaching pro and putting some of his studies into practice: "The PGA degree course has been a fantastic experience for me and has really launched my career as a teaching pro," he said.

"The Vale Resort already has a great reputation for coaching juniors but we are always looking to develop new programmes that are tailored to different types of golfers, from complete beginners to ladies, or even experienced players that want to improve certain areas of their game."

"We have also worked with some fantastic groups of disabled golfers, and that is one part of the job that really excites me."

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PENCOED COMPREHENSIVE: A FINAL REPORT AND THEN THE SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER!



THE wonderful sunny weather at the end of the summer term reflected the current sunny mood at Pencoed Comprehensive School.

During the last year, Estyn judged that the school has made significant improvements and banding jumped from Band 5 to Band 3 – Pencoed Comprehensive was the second highest improving school in Wales from out of Band 5.

Pencoed now looks forward to building on last year's A Level and GCSE results and welcoming pupils and parents to school from 9am on August 15 (A and AS results) and on August 22 (GCSE results). All pupils return to school on September 3 after the summer break.

Strawberry tea

AN annual highlight at the end of every summer term is the strawberry tea party, organised by year-12 pupils as part of their fund raising campaign for Breast Cancer.

This year's did not disappoint. Pupils, staff and members of the community alike all enjoyed the wonderful range of food on offer – all very naughty but very nice!

A new feature this year was the staff bake-off competition. A number of staff brought in some wonderful creations. Cakes were judged on both looks and taste by Caitlin Mills (year-12) and Mrs Samantha Evans. The winner was Mrs Kelly Jones.

The tea party was only one of a number of fundraising activities organised by the pupils. These included a football match between staff and 6th form pupils (won 3-2 by the staff!); mini tea parties at local primary schools, and a pupil 'penalty shoot-out' competition. The total amount raised was just over £1,500.

Many thanks to Gilead Chapel, Greggs and Candy Box in Pencoed for their donations and to kksolutions for printing the flyers/activity packs for free again this year.

Thanks also go to the following local Pencoed businesses for their raffle donations:

Andrew Davis Photography, Busy Office Solutions, Candy Land, The Cooperative, Glamour and Grace, Pencoed Post Office, Sheppards Chemist, The Party House, and Village Florist.

Art Show

THE art department held its art summer show on Monday July 1, exhibiting work produced by the GCSE, AS and A Level Art students. Parents, students, family and staff were invited to come and see these coursework portfolios and examination pieces.

Later in the week, members of the OAPs lunchtime club came to look at the students' work. Art teachers Mrs Helen Williams and Mrs Helen Kavanagh were delighted to welcome so many people to the art department, and were extremely proud of the artwork on display.

Students have developed tremendously since starting the GCSE, AS and A Level courses, and the artwork produced demonstrated a huge range of subjects, media, techniques and personal responses.

Spelling Bee

'BUZZ' about Spelling! The English Department arranged for four year-7 students Ben Humphreys, Hannah Griffiths, Courtney Lee Owens and Danny Barrington, to attend the first annual final of the Bridgend Year 7 Spelling Bee at Bryn Teg Comprehensive.

Pencoed were proudly represented by those who'd made it through the gruelling qualifying rounds with reputations enhanced. All four students did themselves credit, standing on stage and spelling out each word they were given, in front of a good crowd of parents, teachers and other supporters.

Ben Humphreys deserves a particular mention for making it through to the final three.

Schools' challenge

PUPILS based in the



learning resource centre enjoyed a wonderful day out again this year at the 'Local Aid Schools Challenge' at Gnoll Park, Neath.

This is a multi-agency event aimed at helping young people with additional needs. It was a fantastic experience for all pupils (and staff!) involved in activities involving team work, problem-solving and confidence building.

Favourite challenges included making a bridge to cross a river, balancing on a raft, the police assault course and the fireman's slide!

Pupils in the base continue with their weekly fruit and vegetable venture, which is increasing in popularity with both staff and parents.

Thank you

THE drama department's spectacular production of The Wiz has already been reported, but we must give a special thank you to Mrs Kay Smith and Mrs Rhian Jenkins for their hard work, the cast who performed magnificently, the technical staff for their diligence and the staff and parents who worked hard to support the production over the four performances.

Staff and pupils in the drama department have worked hard for many months in order to ensure the show's success.

The cast had also visited all the partner primary schools recently to perform excerpts from the show, prior to a full performance at the comprehensive school.

Sports Day

PENCOED Comprehensive's sporting successes continued into the summer term. A highly success-



ful sports day was organised by the PE Department and the final House results were – 1st Llywelyn, 2nd Gwennllian, 3rd Branwen and 4th O w a i n . Congratulations to everyone, though, who competed on the day.

Rugby wins

THE school's year-9 Rugby League team won the Welsh Rugby League Cup competition for the third consecutive year with a hard fought win over St Joseph's Newport.

This was an excellent win. Tom Williams scored a hat-trick of tries and was named man of the match by Welsh Rugby League staff.

Callum Palmer and Brandon Thrasher orchestrated things behind the forwards and Liam Walters was a livewire as hooker.

On the Rugby Union side of things, the school's year-10 rugby squad won the Ospreys 7-a-side U15 Plate

Competition.

Squad members were Dan Watkins, Sam Rowland Jones, Ben Clarke, Dylan Barrett, Sam Gadd, Jack Pope (Captain), Jacob Lloyd, Jacob Dennis, Evan Price, Jacob Parrish, Rhys Gregory, and Arran Leyshon.



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Youth Club's 15th anniversary

WICK residents were joined by Coun Chris Elmore, cabinet member for children's services as they celebrated the 15th Anniversary of the Wick Youth Club, with members.

"The club which runs during term time is a huge asset to local young people who access various leisure and sports facilities", he said. "It's great to see so many young people coming out to celebrate 15 years of the club. It's clear that volunteers young and old, along with youth workers, keep the club going and I pay tribute to the incredible work everyone does to support the young people of Wick and the surrounding areas."



**ABOVE:
Young people who use the Youth Club are pictured with Coun Elmore.**